



# Report

June 2007

Volume 52:2

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Family Focus On... Adolescence

pages F1-F16

No longer children,  
not yet adults, adolescents  
are negotiating a unique  
developmental stage of  
transition and  
transformation.

What are the risks?  
What promotes resilience?

In this issue of  
Family Focus, your  
colleagues answer these  
and other questions.

As always, we welcome  
your comments.

## NEXT ISSUE:

### Family Science Careers

## 2007 Election Results Announced

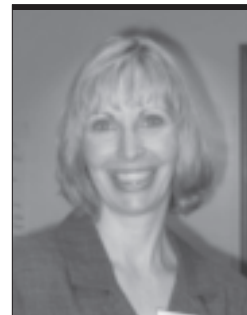
The following NCFR members were elected to serve in offices of the National Council on Family Relations beginning in November of 2007.

For **Board President-Elect for 2007-2009** and **Board President for 2009-2011**:

**G**ary L. Bowen, Ph.D., Kenan Distinguished Professor of Social Work, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Gary was selected as a NCFR Fellow in 2001. He has served as Vice President of Membership; Chair of the Theory Construction and Research Methodology Workshop; Guest Editor and Editorial Board member of *Family Relations*; Member, Reuben Hill Award Committee; Member, Strategic Planning Committee; Member, President's Commission on the Structure of NCFR; Member, Research and Theory Section; NCFR Student Award Recipient; and President of Family Council of North Carolina. Gary believes "NCFR's continued success requires an inspiring vision that embodies its mission and embraces its members' imagination and values, a results-focused performance strategy that harnesses the experiences and capabilities of its members, and an organizational culture that rests on integrity, involvement, and innovation. NCFR's current strengths include its members' competence and commitment, its diversity, its inclusiveness, and its history of outstanding leadership at all levels of the organization. I plan to build on these strengths and to work in full partnership with NCFR's Board and membership to forge a clear and compelling direction, strategy, and culture for future success."



Gary L. Bowen, Ph.D.



Debra L. Berke, Ph.D.,  
CFLE



Raeann R. Hamon,  
Ph.D., CFLE



Chloe D. Merrill,  
Ph.D., CFCS, CFLE



Glen F. Palm,  
Ph.D., CFLE

Election Results  
continued on page 2

# 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:** Pamela A. Monroe

**Board Members:** Marcie J. Brooke, April Few, Deborah Gentry, Maxine Hammonds-Smith, Robert Reyes, Stephen T. Russell, Suzanne R. Smith, Bahira Sherif Trask

**Executive Director:** Diane Cushman

**Editor, NCFR Report:** Nancy Gonzalez

How to contribute to the NCFR Report: The NCFR Report is member-written and articles are encouraged! Articles accepted for publication may be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on 1) relevance to the Family Focus theme, or 2) brevity due to space limitations, or 3) on the order it was received. **The contents of Report articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.**

Letters to the Editor must be brief—150 words or fewer—and they must be signed. To advertise in the Report, please see the specifications and price list at [http://www.ncfr.org/adrates\\_report.html](http://www.ncfr.org/adrates_report.html).

**NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion.** Deadlines for all submissions for the 2007 issues are: September 2007 – July 3, and December 2007 – October 3. Send submissions to: Nancy Gonzalez at [nancy@ncfr.org](mailto:nancy@ncfr.org). For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

NCFR Report is published quarterly by the National Council on Family Relations, 3989 Central Ave. N.E., Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55421, Fax: 763-781-9348, website: [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org).

Third class postage permit.

Report subscription rate: \$20 per year; \$5 per copy. For bulk rates, call 888-781-9331, ext. 14. Annual membership dues include *Report* subscription. \$15 U.S. postage per year postpaid at individual rate.

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## ELECTION RESULTS *continued from page 1*

The new **Board Members-at-Large for 2007-2010** are:

**Debra L. Berke, Ph.D., CFLE**, Associate Professor of Family Science and Women's Studies, Messiah College in Grantham, PA. Debra has served as Past Chair, Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Family Policy Section; Family Life Education Certification Application Review Committee; Association of Councils Public Policy Representative; Chair, Feldman Award Committee, Public Policy Committee; Vice-President and Newsletter Editor, Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations; (formerly Pennsylvania/Delaware Council on Family Relations). Debra states, "I have been an NCFR member for 20 years. I have served in various leadership roles within the organization, including Family Policy Section Chair and Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations. I have also served on numerous committees including the Family Life Education Certification Application Review Committee and the Public Policy Committee. Furthermore, I am a member of five of the ten sections of NCFR. With my interests in teaching, research, policy and family life education, I would bring breadth and depth to the position of Board member and represent a variety of interests within the organization."

**Glen F. Palm, Ph.D., CFLE**, Chair, Child and Family Studies Department, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Glen has participated in the Personnel Committee; Secretary/Treasurer, Education and Enrichment Section; Search Committee Member for *Family Relations* editor; MCFR-MN State Affiliate – Board Member, President, Co-Chair of Males in Families Section; Recipient of the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Distinguished Service to Families Award. Glen states, "I have been a member of NCFR for over 20 years and it has been my professional home during this time. I have actively participated in the organization and am committed to helping NCFR continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of families and family professionals. I bring a unique perspective as a parent education practitioner, evaluation researcher and a teacher educator. I would like to see NCFR continue to support the CFLE program and find new ways to encourage FLEs and researchers to collaborate. I also have come to value the role of young professionals and would like to see NCFR assist this group in

developing early career leadership skills and investment in the organization."

The new **Annual Conference Program Chair-Elect for 2007-2008** is:

**Raeann R. Hamon, Ph.D., CFLE**, Distinguished Professor of Family Science and Gerontology; Chair, Department of Human Development and Family Science, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Raeann has served on the NCFR Board of Directors; President of Association of Councils; Association of Councils Board Member; Member of United Nations' International Year of Family Committee; President, Board member, and Conference Co-Chair of Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations (formerly Pennsylvania/Delaware Council on Family Relations); Member of Family Science, Education and Enrichment, Feminism and Family Studies, and International Sections; Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Program Chair for International Section. Raeann states, "My research and writing projects on international families (i.e. Bahamian families) and cultural diversity within the United States, along with my experience of having served as a co-chair for seven regional and national conferences, have piqued my interest in facilitating a conference program around the theme of Families in a Multicultural World. The international character of San Francisco, the site for the 2009 NCFR conference, will afford an exciting contest for examining how diversity issues affect family scholarship, practice, policy and education and how each of us might contribute to better understanding of the heterogeneity, as well as the commonalities of diverse families not only in the United States, but also around the globe."

The new **Association of Councils President-elect for 2007-2009** is:

**Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D., CFCS, CFLE**, Professor of Child and Family Studies, Weber State University; President, Transformational Symmetry Consulting, LLC. Chloe has participated in NCFR activities as follows: Faculty Advisor, NCFR Student Affiliate; Chair/Member, Academic Program Review Committee; Member, Media Awards Committee; Member, CFLE Certification Review Board; Officer, Utah Council on Family Relations; Member, Education and Enrichment Section; Member, Family

*Election Results continued on page 3*



# President's Report

## THE JMF EDITORSHIP:

# A "Thank You" and "Welcome Aboard"

by Pamela A. Monroe, NCFR President

*"The high for the day exceeds the melting point of light wax, and spring in Baton Rouge slumps over into summer.... The first week in May."*

excerpt from "What the Magnolias Say" in *Kitchen Heat*, Poems by Ava Leavell Haymon, LSU Press (2006)

NCFR is fortunate to have so many dedicated members who give countless hours of service to the organization. Since here we are well into the high heat of summer, I decided to treat you to a refreshing President's column, in which I highlight the work of Dr. Alexis Walker as her term as editor of *Journal of Marriage and Family* comes to a close. Alexis is a distinguished faculty member of Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University. She has served NCFR in a wide variety of roles: as a

founding member of the Feminism and Family Studies section, as the annual conference program chair, and as President, to name but a few. Today we focus on her role as Editor of JMF, an assignment she started in February 2001, overlapping with the term of the previous Editor, Dr. Robert Milardo. The first issue of JMF in Alexis' term appeared in February 2002. When Alexis formally closes out her term as Editor later this year, she will have served the journal and NCFR in this capacity for nearly 7 years. I spoke with Alexis in late March 2007 and asked her to share some of the highlights of her term with me.

The journal has experienced tremendous growth during the past seven years and produces a favorable revenue stream that has become the foundation of NCFR's operating budget. I asked Alexis for some estimated figures that would allow us to grasp in a quantitative sense the degree to

which the journal, during her term, has touched the lives of our members. She noted that JMF offered 4 issues per volume at the beginning of her term in 2002 and 2003; beginning in 2004 the journal offered 5 issues per volume. Each issue typically contains 18 articles. Alexis estimates that she guided about 500 articles into print and edited almost 9500 pages of text, including all the front matter, indices, and acknowledgments. She said that it is "rare to have single authored papers" in JMF, so she estimates that she has dealt with more than 1000 authors over the course of her term, although she usually corresponds primarily with a single author.

Dr. Walker reported that all these "numbers really have gone way up - close to doubled" during her term, and that the increase is not due entirely to the addition of the fifth issue per volume. She stated that the journal

*President's Report continued on page 15*

## ELECTION RESULTS

*continued from page 2*

Science Section. Chloe states, "The Association of Councils (AOC) chair should represent the interests to the group in the larger NCFR community and support and promote within the AOC the value that NCFR places on inclusiveness and diversity in its activities and policies. I have a strong desire to represent and advocate for the interest, concerns, and hopes of the membership of this organization. I can see the bigger picture and then help seek out the details. I am committed to facilitating networking and communication among persons and groups in our membership."

**National Elections Council** members elected to 3-year terms (2007-2010) are:

**Suzanne M. Randolph, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Family Studies, University of Maryland and **Donna L. Sollie, Ph.D.**, Assistant Provost for Women's Initiatives, and Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Auburn University

**National Fellows Committee** members elected to 3-year terms (2007-2010) are:

**Greer Litton Fox, Ph.D.**, UTK Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Child and Family Studies, University of Tennessee and **Robert M. Milardo, Ph.D.**, Professor of Family Relationships, University of Maine

### SECTION OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2007-2009 ARE:

#### Family Policy Section

**Wm. Michael Fleming, Ph.D., CFLE**, Chair-Elect; and **Jodie Hertzog, Ph.D.**, Student/New Professional

#### Family Therapy Section

**Adrian Blow, Ph.D.**, **Megan J. Murphy, Ph.D.**, and **Brandon C. Silverthorn, Ph.D.**, Nominating Committee

#### Feminism and Family Studies Section

**Áine M. Humble, Ph.D., CFLE**, Chair; **I. Joyce Chang, Ph.D.**, Vice Chair; **Cheryl L. Peters, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Margaret Manoogian, Ph.D.** and **Lisa**

**Taylor, Ph.D.**, Newsletter Co-Editors; and **Brian Masciadrelli, MSW, MS, ABD** and **Maria B. Walker, M.Ed.**, Student/New Professionals

#### International Section

**Catherine A. Solheim, Ph.D.**, Chair; **Paul Schvaneveldt, Ph.D., CFLE**, Vice Chair; **Shi-Ruei Sherry Fang, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer

#### Religion and Family Life Section

**Joe D. Wilmoth, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect; **Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Chris J. Gonzalez**, Student/New Professional

#### Research and Theory Section

**Shelley M. MacDermid, Ph.D., CFLE**, Chair-Elect; **Kevin M. Roy, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Paula Y. Goodwin, Ph.D.**, Student/New Professional; **Lawrence Ganong, Ph.D.** and **Jennifer Kerpelman, Ph.D., CFLE**, Nominating Committee

All proposed NCFR Bylaws revisions were approved by the membership.







## Executive Review

# Building a Strong NCFR Family

by Diane Cushman, Executive Director

**G**reetings from NCFR headquarters! It's the beginning of April as I write this column, and I'm closing in on 4 weeks as your new Executive Director. We are already hard at work on a long-term fix to our pesky data bugs that cause us way too much redundant work and inconvenience our kind and gentle members. Another task ahead is to begin asking ourselves some soul-searching questions, such as "How does NCFR show up in the world?" and "What is our clarion call – the 'something bigger' we hope to achieve?" Don't worry; you'll have an opportunity to weigh in on these questions as we move our Institutional Identity project forward over the next several months. Thank you in advance to Dwight Jewson, son of former longtime NCFR executive director Ruth Jewson, who is donating his time and expertise to lead us through this fascinating process. Dwight assures us that in every organization, no matter how diverse, there are core values that everyone shares, and he is committed to helping us identify and articulate ours.

I must make you aware that your Board of Directors has been doing double duty over the past year and we're all the better for it. Your President, Pam Monroe, President-elect Maxine Hammonds-Smith, and Board members Deb Gentry, Robert Reyes, Stephen Russell, Suzanne Smith, Bahira Sherif Trask, Marcie Brooke and April Few deserve high tea at Brown's Hotel in London at the height of the perennial flower season. But they instead have our heartfelt

thanks for their courage and dedication over the past several months. How lucky are we and how smart are you for electing them!

Next, I want to share what's up with the staff. Cindy has been preparing for the 2007 Pittsburgh conference including finalizing the production of the first major marketing piece. As of today (remember, it's early April) we have our first registration. The number of conference proposals is the highest since 1997, and Cindy says that's an indication that attendance will be record-breaking! Nancy, our office humorist and writer, keeps us in stitches. Her way with words helps us navigate some choppy waters. Jeanne spent a day last week with the Elections Council and reports that we have a great slate of possible candidates for the 2008 election. You may have seen Lynda in Boston at the Society for Research and Child Development conference at the end of April. If so, thanks for stopping by our booth. John, an avid astronomy enthusiast, is on a much needed week of vacation with his family in Nevada, gazing at stars from his amateur observatory. Pat and Jason are wrestling with Access and Agora databases, but find time to spend with precious family members and in Jason's case, keep a close eye on *The Last Comic Standing*. Dawn is in the midst of converting the Certified Family Life Educator process from a labor-intensive portfolio review to a standardized exam. This exam has apparently been on our "wish list" for some time; we ran across an old NCFR newsletter from at least a decade ago when

the concept was first proposed. Sometimes change takes time. Judy is working magic with our inventory, mailings and, oh yes; she just became a grandma for the second time.

As for Diane, well, my initial priority is "first things first." By this I mean the flawless execution of the fundamentals. We have big plans for NCFR. We know we can be the professional association of your dreams, and ours. But before we can change the world, we have to get the basics right every time. Whether it's establishing a rock-solid annual conference that delivers on every session or firming up the membership services to the level of excellence we all desire, we can't deliver cutting-edge social media web technologies until you can renew your membership online in one easy transaction. We're going back to basics – and will build from there.

"Continuous process improvement" may be a buzz phrase, but it has a prominent place in our office conversation now, almost to the point of obsession. We never attempt to solve a single problem without looking up the river to find its source. NCFR members are bursting at the seams with ideas of how to make this organization better. We are listening. We will be asking you to share your ideas so that together we can build a base that is solid – one from which we can be creative, flexible and innovative. We plan to develop member services that meet needs you haven't yet imagined. With your wisdom and our work ethic, we'll be the premiere family science research and practice professional association in this country, and then some. Together we'll bring your research and wisdom to bear on policy at the state and national levels – and every family will be the better for it.

Your research reveals that the family meal is key to nourishing bodies and relationships. Pull up a chair; time to sit down and build a strong NCFR family. Thanks for inviting me to the table.

Diane Cushman  
dianecushman@ncfr.org



### NCFR wants to know!

If you have moved or plan on moving, please call 1-888-781-9331 or e-mail: [info@ncfr.org](mailto:info@ncfr.org) with your new address. The U.S. Postal Service does not forward publications like the Report or journals, and we want to make sure you receive them. Thank you!



# Report from Minneapolis

## A Case Study in Adolescent Development:

# Paul Amato and his Canterbury Tale

by Nancy Gonzalez, Editor

Each year Conference Director Cindy Winter asks me to help her work on a couple of projects related to the upcoming conference. They're always fun. This year's project started out pretty ordinary, with marching orders even a bit vague; call someone in Pennsylvania and ask what's up. Snoop around and see if there are any speakers, bands or attractions we don't know about. Let me know if you turn up anything interesting. I called Paul Amato.

In the family research world, "Amato" is one of those names like "Cher." One word is all you need. Just in case we have a reader who's been on deep-sea submarine maneuvers for 15 years, I'll take a moment to bring you up to speed. He's a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Penn State. In many areas of inquiry, but especially divorce research, he is *Da Bomb*. Fulbright Scholar, NCFR Fellow, Reuben Hill Awardee. He's been voted "Most Statistically Significant" by Demographers' Quarterly—three years in a row! OK—I admit I made that last one up. But it almost doesn't matter, because his list of credentials is incredible. He has more citations than a Rust Belt junkyard. If you'd like details, I can email his vita. You'd better have broadband.

Now brace yourself. That is his *dull* side. Over the course of a few weeks, in a volley of lively phone and email conversations, I heard about his rich avocational life as a musician. From this exchange, I was able to book our live band for the Pittsburgh conference—more about that later. But I also heard an amazing account of one guy's circuitous climb up the Ivory Tower. This article began when he told me he was kicked out of high school and finished by GED. I couldn't believe my ears—I felt as if I'd stepped on a rake! I asked Paul if I could tell his story in this issue of Report, as the theme is Adolescence. He said sure. I had no idea what I was in for. I may just nominate myself for a Pulitzer in investigative reporting. He is disgustingly modest

and introverted to boot. I had to drill on him with a carbide bit.

Paul was raised in central California in the small farming town of Yuba City. His early and middle childhood years were pretty standard stuff. But what this issue of *Family Focus* will underscore is that adolescence is a miraculous developmental stage when off-the-rack kids can turn into designer creations. At age 13, Paul did some pretty enigmatic things. He started reading a very



Paul Amato—Back in the Day

eclectic array of literature, namely Ian Fleming's James Bond novels and the works of Geoffrey Chaucer. He also asked for a guitar, dragging his mother to Sears. Over the next couple of years, Paul taught himself how to play the guitar and to read music. School wasn't going so hot—he was bored silly, and his report cards looked like alphabet soup. After school, however, he was learning plenty. He dragged his mother back to Sears; this time for an electric guitar. It was then his avid reading and musical interests collided—he founded his first garage band: The Canterbury Tales. It was just in time for the British Invasion. Paul and his friends began marinating in Beatle juice.

The Beatles were not just musical inspiration for the nation's guitar-totin' teenage

boys; many quickly adopted the Beatles' hairstyles as well. Paul was no exception. But as Paul grew from a Beatles to a Blues musician, so did his hair. By the time he and his band had waded into Muddy Waters, Paul's naturally-curly hair was, in the words of the Cowsills, "shoulder length or longer."

Unfortunately, it was also a source of great consternation for his high school principal.

The day Paul was called to the Principal's office, he had no idea how fateful the meeting would be. He was ordered to cut his hair or else! Paul flatly refused. You gotta admire the kid's chutzpah as he stood on principle—or perhaps I should say principal. It's at this point I am just about stymied as to how to describe what actually transpired—and still use language that would pass muster in polite company—but I'll try. I shall paraphrase Paul's response to the principal's ultimatum, using words carefully-veiled in a barbershop euphemism: he told his principal to go get coifed.

Paul and his mop top were kicked to the curb.

Any other kid would have been devastated. Not Paul. He went home and talked with his dad (a single father with a 5th grade education) who asked, "What do you want to do?" "Go to college," Paul said. So they made an appointment with an academic adviser at the local community college. The adviser spoke discouragingly, for the most part, and told him he needed to finish high school first. I visualized Paul's thought-bubble which read: "Um, let's try Plan B—Principal Scissorhands will not be taking me back anytime soon." Then the adviser added at the last moment—"Well, you *could* go take your GED." He passed the test the summer after his junior year. It was back to the adviser with the results. She was stunned. He had the highest GED she had ever seen—an almost perfect score. (I suspect he *would* have had a perfect score, had he not had his bangs obscuring his



# CFLE Directions

## CFLE Job Analysis Committee Meets in Florida



by Dawn Cassidy, Certification Director

**T**he Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Job Analysis Committee met at the office of Schroeder Measurement Technologies in Dunedin, FL in late March to begin the process of developing the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) exam. The Job Analysis Committee (see box) was made up of eleven NCFR members and CFLEs selected by a subcommittee of the CFLE Advisory Board.

The Job Analysis process proved to be quite an adventure! The *Competencies for Family Life Education*, developed by faculty in the Department of Child and Family Studies at **Weber State University**, provided the foundation for our work. The *Competencies*, published in the National Council on Family Relations' (NCFR) "Tools for Ethical Thinking and Practice in Family Life Education," mirror the ten family life content areas used for the CFLE credential, and include information on the knowledge and understanding, and skills and abilities needed for effective practice.

The Job Analysis Committee modified the competencies for inclusion in an online survey completed by family life educators throughout the country. Respondents were asked to rank how significant each element was in their current practice as a family life educator. For example, the survey respondents were asked to apply the following rating scale:

0 = task is not performed by a FLE

1 = of no importance

2 = of little importance

3 = moderately important

4 = very important

5 = extremely important

To a statement like:

"Identify developmental stages, transitions, tasks and challenges throughout the lifespan."

The responses to the survey will be analyzed by the CFLE Job Analysis Committee at a second face-to-face meeting in FL early this summer. The results of the survey will help NCFR determine the content of the CFLE exam. By using a job analysis process we ensure that the content of the CFLE exam will reflect a realistic representation of the skills and abilities needed for effective family life education practice.

In July, an Item Writing Committee will meet for a five-day workshop to develop the actual test questions. If all goes as planned, we'll offer the first CFLE exam at the NCFR Annual Conference in Pittsburgh this November.

### **Hurry! The Fall Review; Last Chance to Apply through the Portfolio Process**

Word of the exam has apparently gotten out! We received a record number of portfolio applications for the spring review (52). No doubt we'll receive many more for the final portfolio review opportunity this fall. **September 4** is the submission deadline, but it is not necessary to wait until the deadline to submit the application. In fact, I am encouraging everyone to submit their application as soon as possible. As the CFLE Certification Director, I do a preliminary review of each application to ensure they are as complete as possible before they are sent off to the Certification Review Committee. The sooner I receive an application, the more time I will have to review it, and the more time the applicant will have to provide additional information, if needed. So if you and/or a colleague plan to apply for the fall review, send your application in as soon as possible!

The CFLE Advisory Board will be working on developing policies for the administration of the CFLE exam. I'll report back with more information on the status of the program in the next issue of the *Report*.

*CFLE Directions continued on page 7*

### **CFLE Job Analysis Committee**

Ada Alden, Ed.D., CFLE  
*Early Childhood Education*

Deborah Cashen, CFLE  
*Parenting Partnerships, Inc.  
Mediation, Parent Coordination*

Jean Illsley Clarke, MS, CFLE  
*Writing & Communication*

Carol A. Darling, Ph.D., CFLE  
*Family and Child Studies  
Florida State University  
College/University*

Bryce Dickey, MS, CFLE  
*Family and Consumer Sciences  
Western Michigan University  
College/University*

Wm. Michael Fleming, Ph.D., CFLE  
*Family Studies  
University of Northern Iowa  
College/University*

Richard Glotzer, Ph.D. CFLE  
*Family and Consumer Sciences  
The University of Akron  
College/University*

Benita Hornsby Jasper, MS, CFLE  
*Heart of Western Michigan United Way  
Community-based Social Services*

Kristy Jones, MS, CFLE  
*Family & Consumer Sciences 7-12  
National Board Certified Teacher*

Mary Kay Stranik, MS  
*Family Program Consultant  
Community-based Social Services*

Kathleen Tesi, MS, CFLE  
*Manager, Benefits Operations  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
Government & Public Policy*



## PAUL AMATO *continued from page 5*

vision.) That fall, when his classmates were high school seniors, Paul was a 17-year-old college freshman.

At this point in my phone conversation with Paul, his whole mood lifted. I could *hear* him smile. He started to describe how his life began to change. Years of disaffected teenage angst melted away. He says that the first year of community college was the best educational experience of his life, and he continues to be a big fan of community colleges to this day. “Not only did they not care about my hairstyle,” he laughed, “*They didn’t even care if I wore shoes!*” That very year he knew what he wanted to do. He was going to be a Sociology professor.

From that point on, it was straight A’s for NCFR’s own Ferris Bueller. Community college, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Ph. D. degrees came in fairly rapid succession, the latter earned in Australia. It was at his first post-graduate job in a division of the Aus-

tralian federal government, the Australian Institute of Family Studies, that Paul was assigned his first research project on the effects of divorce and remarriage on children. In a hackneyed cliché, the rest is history. Landing at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, he rose from Assistant to full Professor in just six years when he was plucked by Penn State.

NOW breaking news—we interrupt this biography for an important message! Paul has given this amateur journalist an exclusive scoop. Drum roll please. I am delighted to make a wedding announcement! Paul and new bride, Lu Kaiser, were married recently and now live in Pennsylvania’s Happy Valley with their two cats, Chloe and Daphne. Lu is from Austin, Texas and is an artist—a painter and musician and, according to Paul, has “a wacky sense of humor.”

But what happened to the guitar? It never left his side. During this entire journey, he

either played in a band—with hilarious names such as “Arnold Ziffel” and “Cheeseburger”—or he played on his own. During the busiest years, he taught himself classical guitar so he could play solo. (He added something here about learning to play keyboards, too, but I got distracted... I couldn’t stop thinking about his hair!) Settled today in State College, he’s founded his own band again—The Lost Faculties—and this is where the Pittsburgh conference comes in. Paul and four of his Penn State Sociology colleagues will be playing for us Friday night at the conference—pro bono. Ian Fleming will be there too. Part of their set will be a medley of James Bond movie theme songs, which Paul arranged himself, of course. This dude is just riddled in paradox, and here’s another irony; for all his obsession with hair, Paul’s favorite actor is the follically-challenged Sean Connery.

I’m not the first one to write about the life of a family scientist. Suzanne Steinmetz and Gary W. Peterson have gathered a wonderful collection of these autobiographies in their book “*Pioneering Paths in the Study of Families: The Lives and Careers of Family Scholars*.” Pick it up if you’d like to read some engrossing and occasionally side-splitting memoir. Paul’s story mesmerized me in a special way, though, because of my unique perspective. My first career was as an academic adviser at the University of Minnesota. In 15 years, I worked with literally thousands of college students. I cannot remember even one student I worked with who went from GED to Ph.D. Not one.

Paul did pretty well for himself, but let’s face facts—he’s the poster kid for resilience. We all know that school expulsion doesn’t bode well, and most of these stories will not end as happily. How many Pauls try to climb the Ivory Tower and never get a foothold? How can we mass-produce psychosocial grappling hooks? Answering these questions is *our* job, NCFR. Paul and many of you are working day and night to find out how we can promote family and child well-being. I’m in awe of you all and, as a staff member, am tickled just to stand around and hold your coats... or write you an affectionate tribute.

By now you’ve seen the photo of Paul’s teenage tresses running with this article. What does his mop look like today? See for yourself. There’s a photo of Paul and

## CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 4*

There will be some growing pains as we transition from our current portfolio process to an exam but it will be well worth it! The development and administration of an exam will provide a valid, reliable, objective, and legally defensible process for evaluating

adherence to the criteria needed for the CFLE exam and will bring greater credibility to the credential. Questions? Contact me at dawn@ncfr.org.

Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE



## CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

Following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated since January 15, 2007.

(\* -Provisional)

### California

Jennifer H. Christensen \*

### Illinois

Sherra L. Carey \*

### Iowa

Elaine Eshbaugh

### Kansas

Terre J. Mc Ilvain \*  
Heidi A. Oesterle \*

### Kentucky

Matthew D. Roberts \*

### Massachusetts

Lois King

### Michigan

Julie Bos  
Candida Anne Bush \*  
Marcia A. Cobb  
Gail Cook  
Elizabeth Jarzambek  
Genavary L. Luca \*  
Herman May, III \*  
Linda Snare  
Patricia L. Thurston \*  
Rebecca Torrez \*  
Mary Lou Ybarra \*

### Minnesota

Marlys R. Steidl

### Nevada

Richard Durfield

### New York

Mihaela Robila

### North Carolina

Christine Falk \*  
Stacey Perrot \*

### Tennessee

Abbie Currence \*

### Texas

Sadguna Anasuri \*  
Christina Janae Baker \*  
Debra L. Hartle \*  
Dukrae Jang \*  
Sallie J. Wells \*

### Utah

Karah Brian \*  
David H. Jones

### Wisconsin

Amy Steffen \*



# Annual Conference



## You Spoke – and We Listened! Come to a Hot 2007 Conference; There's Something for Everyone

by Patricia Hyjer Dyk and Cindy Winter

**L**ast summer, we sent a survey to past and present NCFR leaders asking for their opinions about NCFR. Then, this past winter, we made a concerted effort to speak with many of you by phone – and we listened. Regarding the NCFR Conference, the messages we got back from both surveys were virtually identical:

Researchers want research—period. There's just no other way to say it. They want to attend sessions conducted by the top scientists in the field and they want to hear about the latest-breaking family research information.

Practitioners want to hear about the research, but with a different approach.

They want to attend sessions that interpret the findings in such a way as to help them put it to use in their direct work with families. Anecdotally, we also hear that “handouts”—written information that summarizes a session—are a hit. Practitioners can take these back and refer to them later in their work as needed.

Did we listen? Yes!

There are so many exciting things happening this year:

- The number of submissions this year is the highest since 1997.
- There is a unusually electrifying buzz in the air about this year's conference—we

expect a spectacular turnout.

- We have a new feature: **Research Updates for Researchers**. Some of the top researchers in the country will be presenting their latest work.
- We're introducing **Practitioner Updates for Practitioners**—brief overviews of current research, followed by panel presentations giving practical tools for implementation. (And maybe a few dynamite handouts!) Panelists will address the application of research to specific areas of family life education programming. These sessions will also include audience participation.

*Annual Conference continued on page 10*

### PAUL AMATO *continued from page 7*

the Lost Faculties in this issue of Report. Come to Pittsburgh. In addition to the live music, Paul and colleagues Sara McLanahan and Kathryn Edin will be talking about Fragile Families.

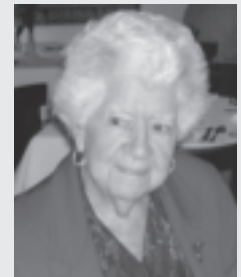
Just a word of warning, though, should you run into him. You're welcome to peer-review his scholarship critically—even brutally, if you like. You can critique his guitar-playing, and he won't “fret.” But whatever you do, for your own safety, do *not* tell him he needs a haircut!

Are you an NCFR member, like Paul, who's had an interesting or humorous life experience outside your life as a family professional? Or do you know one? Send in a tip!

Nancy Gonzalez, M.Ed., CFLE  
nancy@ncfr.org

### In Memoriam—Elizabeth Force—1902-2007

NCFR recently received word of the passing of Elizabeth Force on January 23 at age 104. Elizabeth was the 26th President of NCFR, serving in 1968-1969. She was the first to start a commission to study the certification of Family Life Educators. Her influential textbook, *Your Family Today and Tomorrow* (Harcourt Brace, 1955), was selected as one of the best 55 textbooks in 1955. Elizabeth's impact on the organization included her vision for NCFR to move in an international sphere. She was NCFR's official representative to the NGO committees on the Family of the UN from the 1970s to the early 1990s. She volunteered or served in leadership positions in a number of other organizations including the American Social Health Association and the Historical Society of Tom's River, NJ—her hometown. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman Force, and is survived by a grandnephew and his family.



NCFR Executive Emerita Mary Jo Czaplewski remembers not only Elizabeth's care in growing NCFR, but her faithful tending of a special garden as well. “She was the gardener for a small triangular plot in the middle of Greenwich Village where she lived,” recalls Mary Jo. “I saw it, and she tended the roses there. It was a wonderful plot in a sidewalk jungle.” Memorial services were held Saturday, February 17th at 11 a.m. at Grace Church, 10th Street and Broadway, in Manhattan, NY; memorials to either the Ocean County Historical Society (<http://www.oceancountyhistory.org/>) or Grace Church, 10th and Broadway, Manhattan, NY (<http://gracechurchnyc.org/>).



# The Third Parent: Media Influence on Youth

## A Summary of the David Walsh Conference Plenary

by Nancy Gonzalez, Editor

“If you came here today expecting to hear that ‘media is evil’ and that ‘TV is bad’, you will be disappointed,” said Dr. David Walsh as he opened his plenary presentation at the last NCFR Conference in Minneapolis. In his well-attended session, Dr. Walsh underscored that the potential influence of media can be good or bad—it depends on how we use them. Unfortunately, he says, media can serve as a “Third Parent.”

Walsh cited a couple of impressive examples of media’s contribution to human development. In 1973, in an attempt to promote literacy, an effort in Mexico wove pro-literacy messages into Mexican TV’s most popular show. The result? Literacy rates soared. A similar endeavor in the U.S. met with success as well. In the “Happy Days” sitcom, an episode introduced the joy of reading by showing “The Fonz” obtaining a library card—and emphasizing that it was free. The number of kids applying for library cards went up 40%.

Despite these optimistic successes, Walsh began to describe the equal but opposite effect of media influence when there is little or no pro-social message. Perhaps the most sobering point he stressed is that media influence, in terms of lifelong results, is still a longitudinal experiment in progress. We don’t yet know how the newest forms of media will impact the well-being of today’s children.

Walsh provided an overview of the neuroplasticity that forms the underpinnings of brain development. In the developing child and teen, neural pathways blossom and undergo a “pruning” process of unused paths. The brain is particularly malleable and vulnerable during childhood and adolescence when growth spurts and the sensitive “windows of opportunity” for learning are available. As any of us who have tried to learn a second language as adults can attest, language acquisition is more difficult as we age. Walsh added that the period of “phonemic awareness” in the childhood auditory system occurs during

the first three years of life and that the strongest predictor of reading ability is the amount of conversation between baby and caregiver in those first three years. “We need to tell parents that “Leaving No Child Behind” begins before a child starts school,” added Walsh.

Earlier science theorized that these growth spurt sensitivity windows finished-up by about age 10 – 12. New evidence shows that the “blossoming and pruning” process continues long into adolescence. “The brain is ‘under construction,’” Walsh said. “The prefrontal cortex that controls impulsivity, risk-taking, and conflict management is one of the last parts of the brain to develop—it continues into the early 20s.”

Another consideration is how teen biochemistry shapes the process. The hormones of adolescence affect the amygdala—the brain’s emotional regulator. These chemicals can act as nature’s mood stabilizers. Walsh described a Bronfenbrenner-esque model of media impact on society, with the family circle as core but the community and larger society providing important broader “spheres of influence.” Referencing the ‘Information and Digital Age’, “We are in the early stages of a revolution,” Walsh emphasized. He underscored the speed of technological changes with dizzying and, in this reporter’s view, quite frightening descriptions of the unbridled pace of digital enhancements in terms of “polygons per image” flashing past us—with yet unknown consequences. Where as the Sony Playstation in 1999 functioned at 350,000 polygons per second, by the time the Xbox premiered in 2001, the imagery was up to 125 million. Today, the going-rate on the Playstation 3, the Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii is upwards of 1 billion polygons per second. Just how fast can the human brain process this data and, especially in the developing brain, what are the possible long-term costs? Nature tailors brain neurology to a child’s environment. Unused neural pathways wither, and highly-used ones remain and strengthen. What, if any,

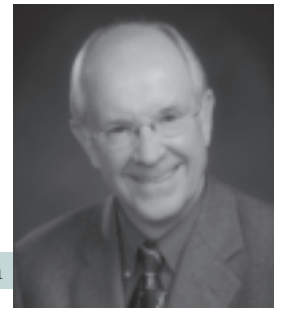
permanent changes take place in the growing brain? No one knows.

One of the most oft-repeated clichés nowadays is adult astonishment as to how facile kids are with the new technologies. Walsh predicts that very shortly, media will be merged digitally and delivered into homes in one integrated pipeline. While this seems revolutionary to parents, today’s kids will take this completely for granted. From our home “TV” monitors, the internet and television user-interfaces will allow families to watch TV programs, YouTube videos, order merchandise, and schedule a FedEx delivery, armed only with a remote control.

Walsh updated the statistics regarding the prevalence of home TV and media. An astonishing 25% of babies under two have media in their bedrooms. Fifty-eight percent of teens have MySpace pages. Incredibly, 43% of babies under two watch TV *daily*. Pediatricians advise no TV at all for children under two—yet there are “Baby Einstein” videos and other media marketed to parents who are eager to snap them up even though there is no known benefit from the products. In a recent survey on the TV’s function in a family, parents say that TV provides convenience, boredom-relief, and a mechanism to keep kids from fighting. If each kid has a TV, they are entertained, separated and in their own bedrooms.

Walsh added that the overall “screen time” for kids is now at appalling rates. Outside of school, U.S. kids average 44 hours a week in front of a screen—up 57% since 1990. And it’s not just an American phenomenon. In South Korea, there are 40 government-sponsored treatment programs for video addiction.

“Why pay attention?” Walsh asked, “Because these things will have an impact on the growing brain.” Walsh described that “Storytelling,” the world’s thousands-years-old pedagogy, is a powerful transmitter of values. Throughout history, storytellers have transmitted culture. He offered the audience a sobering rhetorical question



Dr. David Walsh

*The Third Parent continued on page 11*

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE *continued from page 8*

- There will be many other special sessions, too, sponsored by Sections.
- Then, in preparation for Friday evening's dance, be sure to pack lots of extra socks – because you'll want to dance your socks off! We have a fabulous live band—**The Lost Faculties**—a rock group made up of Penn State sociology professors including NCFR's own **Paul Amato**. In 2004, they played at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Philadelphia. The following year, ASA banned live bands from their conferences. This is coincidence: correlation does not = causation.
- Then—meet NCFR's new Executive Director, **Diane Cushman**, at the President's Reception.

Check the NCFR Website for late-breaking news, program schedule, complete details about the highlighted sessions, and registration information! <http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/annual.asp>

Just look at this Line-up!

### Wednesday

Giving the Opening Keynote is NCFR Living Legend - **Graham B. Spanier, Ph.D.**, speaking on *Vulnerability in the Changing American Family*. Dr. Spanier is President of Penn State University, past President of NCFR, a family sociologist, demographer and a marriage and family therapist.

### Thursday

Don't miss the All Star Panel on *Fragile Families*, featuring speakers **Kathryn Edin, Ph.D.** and **Sara McLanahan, Ph.D.** **Paul Amato, Ph.D.**, of Penn State, will be the moderator.

**Kathryn Edin** is Professor of Sociology and a Research Associate at the Population Studies Center at the University of Pennsyl-

vania. Her research focuses on policy-relevant issues including urban poverty, social welfare, public housing, child support and non-marital childbearing. Dr. Edin has conducted extensive ethnographic research with fragile families and single mothers.

**Sara McLanahan** is a Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, and the Director of the Center for Research and Child Wellbeing, at Princeton University. Dr. McLanahan helped to design the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study.

### Friday

Enjoy a bit of live theatre! Attend the play *"Livin' on Life's Byways - Rural Mothers Speak"*

This new play is a dramatization of the lived experiences of rural, low-income mothers and their families following the 1996 passage of the Federal Welfare Reform Act. The three-act drama culminates with audience participation in a moderated public policy deliberative forum.

**Bonnie Braun, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Extension Family Policy Specialist, Department of Family Studies, at the University of Maryland is the playwright. Dr. Braun is a member of the 17-state research team who conducted a series of 3 interviews of 413 mothers. Quantitative and qualitative analyses by members of the research team informed the play. The play, in the tradition of social theatre, is intended as a teaching tool to increase awareness and understanding of the state of well-being of rural, low-income families and of options for public policy at local, state and/or national levels.

### Saturday

*Vulnerabilities over the Family Lifespan*, **Ann S. Masten, Ph.D.** and **Katherine C. Pearson, J.D.** These two renowned experts will be speaking on the special

needs of vulnerable populations of youth and older adults.

**Ann Masten** is Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Institute of Child Development, at the University of Minnesota. She directs "Project Competence," a research program that includes a longitudinal study of competence and resilience that began 20 years ago with 205 elementary school children, 90% of whom are still participating.

**Katherine Pearson**, is Professor of Law, Dickinson School of Law, at Penn State University and Director of Penn State's Elder Law Clinic.

### Special Sessions

**Wednesday - Research Update for Practitioners: Teaching Family Policy in College Classrooms: Why It's Important and How to Do it Better**

The session will be taught by NCFR Fellow **Karen Bogenschneider**, Rothermel Bascom Professor of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Family Policy Specialist in University Extension. Several experienced family policy instructors from across the country will also participate including **Elaine Anderson**, University of Maryland; **Denise Skinner**, University of Wisconsin-Stout; and **Steve Wisensale**, University of Connecticut.

**Thursday - Practitioner Update for Practitioners: Overindulgence**

Session Chairs are: **Michael Walcheski**, Chair, Graduate Studies, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota and **David Bredehoft**, Professor of Psychology and Family Studies and Chair of Behavioral Sciences, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota who will lead a panel of experts in exploring this issue.

**Thursday - Half-Day Workshop: Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities**, **Jodi Pfarr, M.Div.**

In this workshop, Ms. Pfarr will present the Bridges out of Poverty model, which is in widespread use in training of K-12 teachers. Participants will explore a mental model of poverty, review poverty research, examine a theory of change and analyze poverty through the prism of the hidden rules of class, resources, family structure and language. Participants will receive specific strategies for improving outcomes for people living in poverty, but the workshop focus is to provide a broad overview of concepts.

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To reach NCFR headquarters: [info@ncfr.org](mailto:info@ncfr.org)

To reach specific staff members:

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ON THE NET

## THE THIRD PARENT *continued from page 9*

with an alarming answer; “Who is the Storyteller?” It’s no longer elders, sages, parents and clergy—it’s media.

In his just released book, *No. Why Kids of all Ages Need to Hear It and Ways Parents Can Say It*, Walsh takes the conversation about media’s impact a step further. “Our media culture promotes the values of ‘More, Fast, Easy, and Fun,’” he explained. “Unfortunately those have a corrosive effect on the key trait that children need for success: self-discipline.” He also describes the research done by Angela Duckworth and Martin Seligman showing that self-discipline is twice as strong a predictor of school success as intelligence.”

Concluding his talk, Walsh cautioned that the goal of TV and media is “to deliver eyeballs to advertisers.” It’s all about marketing, and we are for sale, is Walsh’s message in his book, “*Selling Out America’s Children: How America Puts Profits Before Values and What Parents Can Do*” where he explores this societal marketing machine

in depth. Technology drives family behavior. In an analogy from the past, he noted that family interaction patterns changed when furnaces and central heating arrived in homes—families were no longer gathered around the hearth. Family members were free to disperse throughout the house in

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Walsh cautioned that the goal of TV and media is “to deliver eyeballs to advertisers.” It’s all about marketing, and we are for sale.

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thermostatically-controlled comfort. Similarly, while media has the potential to engage, entertain, inspire and educate—it’s bound to affect physical health, sexual norms, personal safety and other concerns. Even privacy has taken a big hit in a new form of a new personal violation called Cyber-bullying. With cell phone cameras, kids can take photos of others in unflattering poses—or worse. These images show up on the internet, are difficult to

remove, and take bullying to a whole new level.

In a December 2006 testimony on C-SPAN, Dr. Walsh with Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) gave an overview of the shocking images and storylines available in “mature” video games—which are routinely available in homes for teen use. User-initiated activities in these games leave nothing to the imagination. Walsh and Lieberman warned the C-SPAN viewers of disturbing video about to roll—and then showed the gaming storylines with graphic scenes of murder, victimization of women, torture and more. Walsh stated that the trouble is that parents often don’t play these games, the kids play them in their bedrooms, and therefore parents have no idea of the content.

What can NCFR do? We can start to inform policy at the societal level, promote change at the community level, and encourage families to engage in activities in the home that are known to promote child development. Family scientists can study and identify the outcomes correlated with excessive media exposure. Then, as research on media’s effect on children and families continues to emerge, we can advise legislators as to the dangers of unregulated and unlimited screen time. We can offer informed opinions to media production organizations regarding the possible consequences of their products. We can start asking questions as to other factors that contribute to families’ overuse of media: would better work-life policies allow parents the time and energy needed to turn off “The Third Parent?”

At the community level, we can offer Family Life Education programs to encourage parents to take TVs and media out of kids’ bedrooms. We can suggest activities to relieve boredom and teach the parenting skills to manage sibling rivalry. As educators, we can stop endorsing “educational videos,” particularly to infants, which give well-meaning parents a false sense of security. The implication from these manufacturers is that “educational” media support optimal child development, when we already know that there is no substitute for loving caregiver lap time.

Dr. Walsh founded the National Institute on Media and the Family and welcomes you to visit the website at [www.mediawise.org](http://www.mediawise.org). NCFR thanks Dr. Walsh for a thought-provoking conference plenary.



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE *continued from page 10*

**Jodi Pfarr** is a speaker and consultant for Aha Process, Inc. M.Div.; Chaplain. She is a consultant for Catholic Charities on programs and staff development. As a consultant with the Salvation Army, she creates holistic programs for low-income families in need of shelter to stabilize their lives. She is a certified critical incident debriefer to police departments and other community social services.

**Friday - Special Session - Health and Caregiving: New Directions in Research, Steven Zarit, Ph.D.**

**Stephen Zarit** is Director, Gerontology Center, Professor and Head of the Human Development and Family Studies Department, at Penn State University; and Adjunct Professor, Gerontology Institute, University College of Health Science, Jönköping, Sweden.

**Friday - Special Session - Soul Sisters and Prairie Flames: Lesbian and Gay Parenting in Diverse Community Contexts, Mignon R. Moore, Ph.D. and Ramona Faith Oswald, Ph.D.**

Dr. Moore will report on her research findings about black and Latina lesbian families with children and how they differ from white lesbians with children, minority

heterosexual women with children, and rural lesbian and gay families. Dr. Oswald will report on her research project on rural lesbian and gay families in Illinois.

A “talk-back” follows the session for those who would like a bit more intimate and informal question/answer/discussion.

**Mignon Moore** is Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, at the University of California-Los Angeles. She is a family sociologist whose research examines within-group variation in processes and outcomes among disadvantaged groups.

**Ramona Oswald** is Associate Professor of Family Studies, Director, Graduate Studies, at University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign.

Other fabulous special sessions are in the works... check the website for the latest.

And by the way, in our surveys we conducted of researchers and practitioners, we heard something that *both* groups love about the conference—the chance to see their colleagues every year and renew treasured friendships. What a coincidence! Pennsylvania’s state motto is; “You’ve Got a Friend in Pennsylvania!”

*Patricia Hyjer Dyk, Program Chair  
Cindy Winter, Conference Director*





## Live in Pittsburgh - Friday night **The Lost Faculties!**

Playing at the Student/New Professional Dance

A Benefit Performance for the **Harold and Margaret Feldman Award in Public Policy**

Voluntary tax-deductible contributions accepted at the door.

**Everyone is welcome! Let's dance!**

## Who are the Lost Faculties?

Probably Pennsylvania's most erudite rock band, that's who! In their own words, they "play songs that most respectable, contemporary bands would never attempt." Turned off by the current musical scene (which has been in a state of decline for over three decades), their mission is to revive traditional American music, that is, pre-Beatles rock, surf, and blues. Think Bo Diddley, Dick Dale, Buddy Holly, Del Shannon, Muddy Waters, and, of course Elvis. And, for those nostalgic about the Cold War, one of the high points of their set is a medley of James Bond songs.

*The members of the band are (clockwise in photo, beginning at the tree): **Sharon Felson** (lead vocals), **Sam Richards** (drums, backup vocals), NCFR member **Paul Amato** (lead guitar, key-board), **Wayne Osgood** (rhythm guitar, lead vocals), and **Rich Felson** (bass, harmonica, backup vocals).*

Paul, Rich, Sam, and Wayne are Sociology faculty at Penn State University. Sharon decided to do something useful with her life and is a social worker. They perform frequently at university events, local clubs and private parties in the State College area. In 2004, they played at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Philadelphia. In 2005, ASA banned live bands from their conferences. (A coincidence: correlation does not = causation.) Once you hear their unusual repertoire, you will understand that they truly have lost their faculties.



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Harville Hendrix & Helen Hunt - *IMAGOConnects*

Michele Weiner-Davis - *Divorce Busting Programs*

David Olson - *PREPARE to Last*

Steve Stosny - *Boot Camp for Emotional Abusers*

Emerson Eggerichs - *Love & Respect*

Frank Pittman - *Avoiding Infidelity*

Kay Hymowitz - *Marriage & Caste in America*

John Covey - *8 Habits of Successful Marriages*

Bill Doherty - *Marriage-Friendly Therapy*

John Van Epp - *How to Avoid Marrying A Jerk*

Terry Hargrave - *Essential Humility of Marriage*

William Fals-Stewart - *Learning Sobriety Together*

Muhammad & Slack - *The Black Marriage Curriculum*

Barry McCarthy - *Marital Sex as it Ought to Be*

Sherod Miller - *Collaborative Marriage*

Joe Jones - *Marriage and Fragile Families*

Spring - *Infidelity & Forgiveness* • McManus - *Marriage*

*Savers* • Haltzman - *Secrets of Happily Married Men*

Bader - *Rapid Repair* • Heitler - *Power of Two* • Laaser -

*Porn Addiction* • Parrott - *Time Starved Marriage*

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# How does it Work? Sharing the Context for the Work of the Elections Council

by Elections Council Co-Chairs: Tammy Henderson and Laura Smart

The Elections Council [EC] greatly appreciates the 2008 nominations submitted by the following individuals: Kevin Allemagne, Katherine Allen, Paul Amato, Andrew Behnke, Rosemary Blieszner, Catherine Chelsa, Kelly Davis, Bryce Jorgensen, Janice Kelly, Jeffrey Larson, C. R. Macchi, Barbara Mandelco, Stephen Marks, Christi McGeorge, Robert Milardo, Charlotte Shoup Olsen, Ramona Oswald, Karen Pyke, M. Elise Radina, Stephen Russell and Suzanna Smith. We hope to get even greater participation when asking for nominations for the 2009 ballot.

We also would like to thank all of the candidates who ran for office in 2007. We welcome those who were elected, and we also honor those who were not. By becoming candidates, all who ran demonstrated their support of NCFR, which the EC greatly appreciates.

We would like to take some time to share with you what the Elections Council is, and how it goes about developing a ballot. The EC consists of six members each of whom serves a three-year term, two of whom are elected in a given year. The council meets at the November annual meeting and again in the spring. Members, sections, committees, as well as Association of Councils' state affiliates are asked to submit nominations. A nominating form is provided in the annual conference packet of conference-attending members, and it is also available from section chairs and the NCFR office. To support us in serving you, we recommend that you secure a prior commitment from nominees before submitting the actual nomination form.

The EC consistently and purposefully works to represent the entire membership when developing the nominations and subsequent election ballots. Consistent with the work of the members of the National Council on Family Relations, the EC works to develop a ballot of nominees who demonstrate excellence in the "scholarship of discovery, application, teaching, and integration," using the words of E.C.

Boyer in *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate*. In development of the ballot, we consider the experience and knowledge that each nominee has of the organization. We also take into consideration the mission of the organization:

NCFR's Mission: The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) provides an educational forum for family researchers, educators, and practitioners to share in the development and dissemination of knowledge about families and family relationships, establishes professional standards, and works to promote family well-being (go to <http://www.ncfr.org/about/mission.asp>).

Leadership in the various levels of the organization is integrated in the process of developing election ballots. We look to you and ourselves to identify outstanding leaders who are involved with the work done by the Association of Councils' state affiliates, Focus Groups, Sections, pre-conference activities (i.e., Work-Life Summit, TCRM, and Extension), Publications Committee, Search Committees, and Public Policy Committee. We also look at active conference participants. We look to the Editorial Boards for the journals – *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Family Relations*. These and other leadership roles provide the springboard of the Program Committee, Board of Directors, Fellows Committee, and Elections Committee.

Governance policies also have been established that outline the roles and responsibilities of the EC, which includes a possible charge from the Board about factors to consider when developing the election ballot. One of the overarching values of NCFR is diversity, broadly defined. To this end, the EC carefully considers how diverse groups are represented in each ballot. Diversity includes but is not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, region, career path, membership cohort, the professional identity of researchers and practitioners, sexual orientation, disability, and more. We are honor bound by the importance of all of these items. We use them to guide our deliberations and the ballots set before

you. We appreciate the opportunity to serve, and we wanted to let you know how we go about the work of the organization.

In addition, the EC takes great care in developing a compatible slate of nominees for any given office. For example, we would not have an assistant professor run against a full professor. These and other factors (i.e., diversity, career level, and leadership experience within the organization) are necessary to address the varied needs of the organization and to enhance the leadership capacity of elected officers. We want the members and elected officers to be positioned for success. Once we have created the slate, members call nominees to see if they are willing to run. Because some people will decline the nomination, we also create an alternative list of nominees for each office.

Our long-term goal is to increase the diversity of our membership and leadership, which poses both an opportunity and challenge when developing a ballot. Most would agree a diverse leadership attracts a diverse membership. Stated differently, to "grow" a diverse leadership, we need a diverse membership! In addition, we are sensitive to leadership burnout, personal and career life courses, and the need to maintain work-life balance. The EC attempts to serve the organization with supportive professionalism. In closing, we hope that this brief overview provides some key facts to you about the work of the Elections Council.

Once again, start thinking about nominations for the election to be held in February, 2009. We need the nominations by December, 2007. The 2007 chairs of the EC are Tammy Henderson and Laura Smart. Other members are Jay Mancini, Catherine Solheim, Sally Bowman and Michael P. Johnson. Board Liaisons are Marcie Brooke and Robert Reyes. Elections Council members-elected in 2007 are Suzanne Randolph and Donna Sollie; they will replace Tammy Henderson and Laura Smart in November 2007.



# Rose Suggett Named First Recipient of Czaplewski Administrative Fellowship Award

For the first time since its initiation in 1999, the Czaplewski Administrative Fellowship of \$1000 has been given to NCFR member, Rose Suggett, Ph.D., MFT, CFLE. Suggett's application was approved by the NCFR Board of Directors in March at the recommendation of the review committee.

Currently, Dr. Suggett is the Social Sciences Program Chair at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska where she also teaches. She has also been a faculty member at the University of Nebraska and Doane College. She is an active member of NCFR and uses her combined family studies and therapy skills in various conflict management and mediation venues. For example, she works with the Nebraska State Patrol Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, AmeriCorps, and Lincoln Medical Education Partnerships on conflict resolution and mediation. She is also actively involved in integrating global education on campus and most recently with South China Normal University. She is a leader in the establishment of short courses of study abroad and is compiling appropriate curriculum to be field tested in China in September 2007. As a CFLE, Dr. Suggett has served as a parent educator/family therapist for the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership. Her work includes teen moms, divorcing parents faced with custody related issues and low-income families facing financial, and relationship challenges.

Dr. Suggett plans to use the fellowship award funds to attend the *Chair Academy Leadership Development Program*, for chairs and mid-level administrators. This program consists of two one week residential training sessions followed by a full year practicum in which the participant creates her own professional development plan guided by an experienced mentor. Suggett's focus will be program and curriculum design. (For more information on this program see: <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/community/chair/academy/index.html#who>.)

The Czaplewski Administrative Fellowship Award was established by the past NCFR Presidents to honor Mary Jo Czaplewski who served as NCFR's Executive Director from 1984-1999. The purpose of the fellow-

ship is to provide funding support to family scholars who wish to obtain training and/or to make mid-career moves into administration. One former president remarked that, "it is increasingly difficult to find individuals with skills and experience to fill the increasingly challenging roles as department Chairs and Deans. NCFR is committed to professionals in the family field interested in leadership roles."

The fellowship is awarded only when there is a request for support but no more than once every other year. The application goes through a review process and is approved by the Board of Directors. There is no deadline for application, and no nominations are

required. Funds are to be used to defray tuition and/or travel cost to an approved leadership institute. The review committee commented on the strength of Dr. Suggett's qualifications, and proposal, her broad back-

ground, skills and the excellent letters of recommendation from her administrators and colleagues. It was suggested that she serve as a presenter at a future NCFR conference. Congratulations Rose!



Rose Suggett, Ph.D.,  
MFT, CFLE

## Tech Council on Family Relations News

The Tech Council on Family Relations, the NCFR student affiliate at Texas Tech University, recently won the 2006 "Outstanding Student Organization" award for the College of Human Sciences. More than 22 groups submitted applications for consideration as the outstanding organization.

TechCFR, under the advising leadership of Lane H. Powell, PhD, CFLE, Department of Human Development, has developed a recognizable presence both on campus and in the city of Lubbock, through their special projects. For the third year in a row, the students have sponsored a "Festival of Nations," for community families, in collaboration with the School of Education's K-12 International Education. This year, the Festival was held in conjunction with the PTA Fall Festival of a neighborhood school. International students and local cultural representatives set up booths of artifacts from their countries/cultures. They wore their native dress and wrote children's names in various languages for children to take with them in their "suitcases" made of manila file folders. Local groups of dancers performed and a storytelling parachute tent held a storyteller and books of folk tales from around the world. The PTA was so pleased with the results of the Festival of Nations that they invited the group to participate again next year.

TechCFR also works closely with the local Children's Protective Services to assist with resources for children in foster care. This spring, the students sponsored a prom dress event for girls who are juniors or seniors in high school. During the fall, the students gathered "gently worn" prom dresses from women across the campus. The girls in foster care had an evening to choose their prom attire from more than 160 dresses in a variety of sizes and styles. They also had their makeup and hair done by local stylists.

A third major event this year was Healthy Relationships Week, which TechCFR sponsored and promoted across campus. A TechCFR grad student member took training in the Relationship Attachment Model developed by Dr. Van Os which is promoted under the title of "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette)." This program was offered two times. Other programs included a panel of married couples with more than 40 years of marriage who shared their personal experiences on "what I wish someone had told me before I married."

Drs. Bob and Lane Powell conducted a communications seminar on: "How to talk about the hard stuff and the sweet stuff in close relationships." A film and discussion on "Diversity Rules" and "Traits of the Healthy Family" were also part of the week's events.

*Tech continued on page 15*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 3*

is “just getting more good submissions.” She credits, in part, the work of the reviewers – called Associate Editors of JMF – for this increase. “The reputation of the journal attracts great reviewers who take their work seriously, and that in turn attracts great work as well,” she noted. Alexis also praised the work of “occasional” reviewers, upon whom she calls from time to time.

We talked a little about how the review process for manuscripts has become more streamlined during her term. She noted that the process has become almost entirely electronic. “Previously,” she said, “a packet just showed up [in a reviewer’s mailbox] and you knew what it was! The Editor didn’t necessarily even know if [the reviewer] had gotten the packet until close to the deadline” for submission of the review. She noted that there was a “heavy use of fax! Today the fax machine is seldom used, but it used to be burning all the time.” Now, someone emails the reviewer first to see if he/she is available to review, and the manuscript is not sent out until the person agrees to review it. The next step in streamlining the process was to ask reviewers to send their reviews back as emails with attachment. “Early on, some people couldn’t do that yet – people were still learning to use their computers,” she recalled. The editorial office also used a calendar system – by hand – to “nudge people if their reviews were late,” but now reminders are handled electronically. The one step left to complete for JMF will be for an accepted manuscript to be sent automatically to the publisher. Alexis said that “eventually, when the editor hits the accept button it will automatically go to Blackwell. Right now, [her staff] takes all those manuscripts, converts them in a file protocol, and sends them to Blackwell.”

I asked Alexis to talk about what had been her greatest successes and challenges with the journal and her role as Editor. She said that when she was interviewed for the position, she told the search committee that perhaps her “most important goal was to do no harm – not to do things so differently that people would stop submitting or think that JMF was no longer a great outlet.” Dr. Milardo, the previous Editor, left JMF in great shape and she wanted to preserve that excellence. Along the way, Alexis said that she also came to understand the importance of “maintaining continuity even during transitions like the electronic revolution.” She said that the “hardest thing is to send a

rejection letter to someone you know.” She said that reviewers’ comments can sometimes be harsh, so she has to decide how to present those comments in a way that is constructive. She noted that “some people are great researchers but not good writers or not good at telling the story,” so she works with authors when there is a compelling story or important data that merit further consideration.

Editors of important journals often shape their disciplines in conscious or unintended ways during their terms. I knew that Alexis would be too modest to claim such a role for herself, but I coaxed her to think about the fact that JMF shapes family science and related disciplines, as well as our careers, and to reflect on ways in which she has left her mark. As I expected, she demurred from such a lofty description, but did allow that very often she has “been directive. I didn’t use form letters, so I shaped those manuscripts.” She said that being a journal editor is, in “some ways a lonely position – you don’t get a lot of feedback.” One of the features of JMF about which her pride is evident is the number of articles on which she has invited comment or debate. While she points out that she was not the first Editor to do this, the “luxury of an extra issue gave me a little breathing room” for such commentary. Alexis then made this insightful comment: “An editor gets to see reviews and sometimes realizes there is a debate in the field before it becomes widely apparent. Usually this happens over a long period of time. As editor, there’s a way to push this [debate] forward, make that discourse part of the discipline, push this development.” When she recognized in the reviews that there was an interesting debate building, “different ways to look at things, sometimes based in disciplinary differences,” she said that “airing those out moves the field along.”

Toward the end of the conversation I asked Dr. Walker what was the most fun she’d had as Editor? You won’t be surprised by her response:

“Almost all of it. I have just really loved doing this. I have a great sense of sadness that I won’t be doing it anymore. It’s just a joy. I love my field and I love learning about families. I get really excited or sometimes it works me up. I felt so privileged to be in on the early-warning system. I love writing to people to help them make decisions about improving their work. People are so grateful to get these messages of positive feedback,

or to be informed. [This is] work they lovingly labored over – it’s so easy to make people feel valued and appreciated [through constructive feedback]. Staff and board members have been wonderful, but the journal is so good that it attracts this kind of work. You’ll call famous people who don’t answer their phones who will now call you right back – I’m under no illusion this will continue! But it is time to move on, for the journal, to get new blood in.”

As for this transition to the new JMF editor, Dr. David Demo, Alexis added these thoughts: “Although Dave and I have talked a lot...since he’s taken over (he actually came to Corvallis in December [2006] with his graduate assistant to learn about JMF’s... procedures), I don’t have to say *anything* to him. He’s a great scholar, he knows the field well, he also knows JMF and is committed to it and to NCFR, and he’s a decent human being. JMF will be in great hands. Given that he is already handling all new submissions received as of February 1st [2007] it already is in great hands. I’m looking forward to seeing his issues as an eager JMF reader.”

“What are you going to do with all your spare time when your term ends,” I asked!

Alexis said, “I hope to go on sabbatical next year and it will be a great segue. I plan to revitalize my own research program” and tackle a new area - families and health. She mused that “undergraduate teaching is new all over again, so I have to get back up to speed on that.” And, perhaps, more time for bird watching, I asked? She laughed... “Always!”

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## TECH *continued from page 14*

“I am so impressed with the dedication and hard work of these student leaders as they assist and support community families as well as educate themselves for the future,” said Dr. Powell. In the past four years, TechCFR has assisted active graduate and undergraduate students in attending state and national CFR conferences. In March, 14 student members journeyed to Austin for the Texas CFR conference; several submitted papers or posters for presentation.

Congratulations, TechCFR!

Lane H. Powell, Ph.D., CFLE  
Assistant Chair, HDFFS  
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# CALENDAR

## June 4 – 8

The University of Kansas Qualitative Psych Program 5th annual Summer Institute "Stats Camp" in Lawrence, KS. More information at: [www.ContinuingEd.Ku.edu/programs/StatsCamps](http://www.ContinuingEd.Ku.edu/programs/StatsCamps).

## June 28 – July 1

Smart Marriages 11th Annual Conference, Denver, CO. More information at [www.smartmarriages.com](http://www.smartmarriages.com).

## July 5

Deadline to submit news, announcements and articles for the September issue of Report. Issue Theme: Family Science Careers

## August 1

Hurry! It's the last day to register for the conference at the Early Bird rates! August 2 and thereafter—conference registration at the regular rates at [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org).

## September 4

Deadline to submit CFLE portfolio applications for the *last-ever* review before the standardized exam arrives. (postmark 9/4 is OK)

**NCFR conference registration available all month at [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org)**

## NCFR Report - A Member Forum

The NCFR Report is a member-written quarterly newsletter designed to encourage member-to-member dialogue; to inform colleagues about new research areas or to report early research findings and solicit critique before submission to a professional journal. Through the Report, NCFR also builds our community by reporting on people, events and organizational news.

Unlike the content of our scholarly journals, the articles in Report have not been peer-reviewed. In the spirit of open debate and academic freedom, NCFR Report is a member forum for exchanging ideas. The opinions or findings expressed are those of the author(s), which may or may not represent the official position of NCFR as an organization nor the prevailing scientific consensus on the topic.

Author email addresses are provided to encourage readers to offer comment to writers. Members may access the content of our scholarly journals on-line at [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org). To join NCFR, click on our convenient on-line membership application at [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org). Journalists with media inquiries are invited to contact Nancy Gonzalez at 763-231-2887 or via email at [nancy@ncfr.org](mailto:nancy@ncfr.org) for information on our scholarly research.



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