



Report

December 2008

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IN THIS ISSUE:**Child Abuse & Neglect**

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According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “in 2006, 6 million cases of child abuse or neglect were reported to Child Protective Services in the United States. Approximately 905,000 of these cases were confirmed.... However, the true number of children who are abused or neglected is unknown. Many cases, especially those involving young children, are not recognized or reported. As a result, many abused or neglected children suffer in silence.”

In this issue of NCFR Report, we explore Child Abuse & Neglect. As always, your NCFR colleagues share their expertise in research and practice on the subject matter.

However, we are especially grateful this time for a contribution from a guest columnist, Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes.

NEXT ISSUE:**Fatherhood****Announcing the NCFR Institutional Identity Project Results!**

At the annual conference in Little Rock, the results of the organization’s institutional identity project were presented, including the new logo, at a reception at the Clinton Presidential Library.

What was the purpose?

The goal of the project was to create a strong overall identity that represented the primary emphasis of the organization: catalyzing leading-edge family research, theory and practice. It also sought to help set NCFR apart from other “sound-alike” organizations and to establish a consistent graphic identity.

What was the Process?

Dwight Jewson, Ph.D., president of Strategic Frameworking and an expert in institutional identity, led a comprehensive review process collecting input from stakeholders, including more than 100 members in a “Town Hall” meeting at the 2007 annual conference, an Institutional Identity Task Force, elected NCFR leaders, members from a variety of areas of expertise and staff.

Dwight recruited graphic identity experts Michael Bierut and Kai Samela of Pentagram Design to design a logo. All of these services were provided pro bono, for which NCFR is profoundly grateful.

Introducing our New Logo!

Our new logo communicates a message that places emphasis on our mission—research, theory, and practice—rather than on our name.

It has a clear association of NCFR with the scholarly journals it publishes, and it will provide consistent branding on publications, websites, and stationery. The logo is made up of three elements: the acronym, the description and the asterisk. The acronym communicates the name of the organization and



thus is the most dominant element of the logo. “Catalyzing research, theory and practice” is a description that has been added to the original acronym to clarify the activities and philosophy of the organization. The asterisk is the most expressive element of the logo and helps to communicate the central goals and values of the organization. ■

San Francisco Conference Proposals due on March 2

California here we come! NCFR’s next annual conference will be in San Francisco! Little Rock is a fond memory—it’s already time to get ready for our next conference to be held November 11 – 14, 2009. The theme of the conference is *Families in a Multicultural World*. Proposals are invited on the conference theme as well as any area of family research and practice. Submit a proposal! The deadline is March 2 2009. All of the instructions are on the NCFR website at www.ncfr.org under the *conferences* pull-down menu and on the flyer enclosed in this issue of *NCFR Report*.

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.

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Send submissions to: Nancy Gonzalez at
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In Memoriam—Vera Chapman Mace Pioneer in the Marriage Enrichment Movement

Vera Chapman Mace died on July 22, 2008
at the age of 106 in Burlington, VT. She and
her husband David (who died in 1990) were
pioneers in the area of marriage enrich-
ment, and co-founded the Association for
Couple in Marriage Enrichment (ACME) in
1973. As early as 1949, they founded the
National Marriage Guidance Council in
London, England. They were co-executive
directors of the American Association of
Marriage Counselors (now the American
Association for Marriage and Family
Therapy), and they were among the charter
members of the National Council on Family
Relations (NCFR). David served as NCFR's
19th President in 1961. In 1975, the Maces
were awarded NCFR's Distinguished Service
to Families Award.

Together, the Maces were longtime con-
tributors and supporters of NCFR, attend-
ing the conferences and serving on many
early committees. They were especially
well-known as international ambassadors,
often representing NCFR at the United
Nations Institute for the Family and at
meetings abroad.

Vera was also given a distinguished service
award by the United Nations International
Year of the Family in 1995 for her lifelong
efforts in promoting marriage enrichment
internationally. This was presented by



David and Vera Mace

Henryk Sokalski, UN-IYF Coordinator at
NCFR's international IYF conference at
Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Vera started her teaching career in
England, and later earned a Master's
Degree in Religion from Drew University
in NJ. She was a gifted writer and, together
with her husband David, co-authored over
30 books on marriage and family relations.
She was also accomplished in needlepoint,
doing exquisite, intricate work well into
her late 90s.

Vera is survived by two daughters, Sheila E.
Jagan of Majorca, Spain, and Fiona Patter-
son of Burlington, VT. She has five grand-
children, and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to the LNA Edu-
cation Fund, Birchwood Terrace Healthcare,
43 Starr Farm Rd., Burlington, VT 05401. ■

In Memoriam—Gay Kitson—1941-2008

Gay Kitson, former NCFR President, recipient of NCFR's
prestigious Fellows designation and beloved colleague of
ours, passed away on July 21 of multiple myeloma. Gay served
most recently as Professor of Sociology at the University of
Akron and, prior to this, at Case Western Reserve University.

Among her many, many accomplishments, Gay moved our
field forward with important research on divorce and the
effects of violence on women and children. She served on
editorial boards of many journals and as past Chair of the Family Section in the
American Sociological Association (ASA). Her book entitled *Portrait of Divorce:
Adjustment to Marital Breakdown* earned her the ASA's Family Section's William J.
Goode Award.

Gay is survived by her husband of 38 years, James Kitson, of Shaker Heights, OH.
Jim contacted NCFR with the news and expressed how dear the organization had
been to her for years. Those wishing to contribute a memorial may direct them to
the Ireland Cancer Center of University Hospitals of Cleveland, 11100 Euclid Av-
enue, Cleveland, OH, 44106.





President's Report

Sticks and Stones: Words of Abuse and Neglect

by Maxine Hammonds-Smith, NCFR President, maxinehammonds@NuMeWellness.com

So many things come to my mind as we think about abuse and neglect at any stage of development. Both abuse and neglect have a tone of their own; how the words are used and internalized makes a difference from the sender and to the receiver. In many situations, and too often, we are too casual with words when we are dealing with others. Abuse and neglect might be defined and used differently depending on where we are in our relationships, as well as our stage of development (professionally, socially, emotionally, and in the family).

For the purpose of this article, I will address abuse and neglect in terms of words—words and their meaning. As we develop (professionally, socially, emotionally, and in the family), some words just do not always come out the way we want them to be received. Nevertheless, it is important to practice being aware of what we want to say before words are expressed. When information is not clear and understood by both the sender and the receiver, it can be a form of miscommunication and, in turn, become verbal misunderstanding. This can lead to verbal abuse and a neglect of understanding. Some of us have often heard the saying “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”. This quote is so untrue; words can be hurtful, demeaning and abusive.

At any stage of development, verbal misunderstanding and neglecting to clarify information might lead to verbal abuse and neglect, especially if the line of communication reaches a mutual discontentment in the process. Therefore, what I have to offer as a family professional scholar is a suggestion: that professionals of family science create ways that might be helpful in raising the consciousness of individuals and families to develop positive skills for healthy communication patterns.

What makes for effective healthy communication?

Effective healthy communication is a two-way process; one person talks and the other listens and vice versa. In effective, healthy communication, it is very important that words are thought through with a sense of awareness, making certain that meaningful words are chosen by both the sender and by the receiver (via feedback) in an effort to demonstrate a caring line of communication. Our behavior is most important in developing effective healthy communication through the process of developing skills of caring relationships. Usually caring behaviors will help in the process of building effective and healthy communication by promoting sound interpersonal relationships. It is beneficial for individuals to develop and maintain mutual respect for each other. It is also important that individuals clearly understand each other's needs in an effort to develop positive, caring, and respectful relationships. Also, it is important to develop sound conflict management skills that will enhance this process.

What makes for miscommunication?

It is not only what we say; it is crucial to consider *how* words are expressed. In most cases it is difficult to separate words from their intent and the affective behavior. It is my belief that affective behavior carries the weight of feelings and intent. In communication, the behavior of the sender impacts the receiver in addition to the choice of words. Many of us know that miscommunication happens so easily. Many times the speaker blurts out information without thinking; we don't select appropriate words that support a healthy communication. As a result, our casual use of words can inadvertently become a put-down.

What makes for verbal abuse?

The ineffective use of appropriate words that lack clarity and the ongoing misunderstanding between two parties can cause a

breakdown of communication and can lead to a form of verbal abuse. This can occur at any stage of development. As teachers, many of us have seen instances of verbal miscommunication in the teacher-student relationship. For an example, a teacher might say to a student that his or her performance in class is not acceptable and he/she just doesn't get it, and the class must move on. Depending on how the information was delivered, and the how the student perceived the information, it might impact the student's morale; he or she might feel that the teacher was demonstrating insensitive and uncaring behavior.

What about the home-work dynamic? Most people in their job settings take a more caring approach in communication, mainly because that is the place that provides the economic resources to support the individual and family. We are more selective with the words that we speak as well as the style of communication which intently illustrate a clearer and caring approach of communication. On the other hand, in family settings, we might take a more casual approach in communication, mainly because we feel closer to family members and automatically think they should understand what is being verbalized. This can be so wrong. As family members in a profession of family relations, we can be leaders in promoting healthy communication skills by demonstrating the same type of caring approaches in our family settings as we do in our workplaces.

What makes for neglect?

To not carry-out the basic needs and responsibility of caring for others is also neglect. Neglect can be passive, active, and self-neglect. Passive neglect can be viewed as unintentional failure to attend to the awareness and the basic needs for an individual.

In the communication cycle, one might be in a rush to make a point and thereby fail to adhere to an awareness of the meaning

President's Report continued on page 4



Executive Review

Welcoming our new Board Members, a new Staff Member and our new Institutional Identity

by Diane Cushman, Executive Director, dianecushman@ncfr.org



At this time of year, we look back with gratitude and ahead with anticipation. Thanks to all of you who rocked Little Rock at the 70th annual NCFR conference. Our sincere thanks to the Little Rock Local Arrangements Committee for showing everyone a good time! As is our custom, we expressed our appreciation to the NCFR Board members who completed their terms: April Few, Stephen Russell, Suzanne Smith, and Bahira Sherif-Trask. We welcomed new Board members: Norma Burgess, Mary Ann Hollinger, Gary Lee and Soyoung Lee. While now serving in an official capacity, these new members to the Board of Directors began their orientation to our Carver Policy Governance model in August. They have hit the ground running! Too numerous to mention by name are all the Affiliate, Section, Fellows and election leaders who have served NCFR members well over the past year. Thank you.

Please mark your calendar for NCFR's 2009 conference in San Francisco, November 10 – 14. The location is the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport. We'll let you know when we have the conference schedule up on the NCFR website so that you can begin your planning.

Did you notice the new NCFR logo? Check the upper right corner of this page. If you attended the unveiling at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, you've seen how NCFR's new look will be applied to our three journals. The next issue of *NCFR Report* will have a new masthead and soon you'll begin to see changes to our website at www.ncfr.org.

The vitality of the logo will be matched by renewed energy. NCFR has completed its Institutional Identity process, begun in early 2007. The graphic identity is the represen-

tation of NCFR's institutional identity. The process began with the Board of Directors in June and continued with 100 members who participated in the Town Hall Forum in Pittsburgh in November, 2007. In April of this year, The Institutional Identity Task Force took your "pyramid" short story ideas one step further by integrating the recurring themes. Then in June, your Board of Directors tweaked it a bit more. The result: NCFR is the *premier professional association for the multidisciplinary study of families*. Collectively the membership *catalyzes leading-edge family research, theory and practice*. Emotionally, members benefit by feeling *enlightened, affirmed and energized*. And to the world, NCFR matters because of our role in *Strengthening Families*.

I speak on behalf of all NCFR members and staff when I offer our unbridled gratitude to Dr. Dwight Jewson, President, Strategic Frameworking, Inc.; Michael Bierut, graphic designer and information architect, Partner at Pentagram; and Kai Salmela, graphic designer, Pentagram. Dwight Jewson not only gave generously of his time and extraordinary talents, but he brought to NCFR two of the world's most talented graphic designers. Their pro bono efforts were precious gifts.

In late August we welcomed Charles Cheesebrough to the staff of NCFR. As

Director of Membership and Marketing, Charlie's the right person at the right time for NCFR. He's spent his entire career in higher education, telling the stories that bring large institutions down to human scale so that faculty, staff, students and community members can develop an emotional connection that adds meaning and relevance. With the skill of a master, Charlie has begun to apply NCFR's new logo to print and electronic media, bringing our new institutional identity to life for our members and others in related fields of social science and policy. This transformation of graphic identity will continue to unfold over the next 12 months, and when we meet in San Francisco, it should be near completion. Please share your thoughts on the new look with Charlie at charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org.

NCFR continues to explore the use of new communication technology. We have registered a Twitter and experimented with Tweets at the conference. For some, these evolving social media are embraced with excitement at the possibilities. For others, we fear the loss of direct human to human conversation. NCFR will do both going forward. And any time you want to talk to your NCFR staff, just pick up the phone and call us at 888.781.9331. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 3*

of words. Active neglect in the communication cycle occurs when a person purposefully fails to adhere to the selection of words for healthy communication. It might be that the sender goes out of his/her way to be demeaning to a receiver. On the other hand, an individual might intentionally or unintentionally neglect himself or herself. In this case a potential endpoint for some

people could be depression or lacking the desire to maintain healthy relationships.

In summary, as family professionals we need to be in the business of raising awareness in individuals and families in an effort to eliminate verbal abuse and neglect. We need to take an active role in making certain that we demonstrate these principles as we model healthy and skillful communication. ■



Report from Minneapolis

The Hole in My World: A Child's View of Intimate Terrorism

by Nancy Gonzalez, CFLE, Editor, nancygonzalez@ncfr.org

Our guest columnist in this issue of *NCFR Report* is Pulitzer Prize winner, Richard Rhodes. Richard won his Pulitzer for *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, his brilliant account of the WWII Manhattan Project and the beginning of the Nuclear Age. He's written 22 other books, one of which—*A Hole in the World*—is his childhood memoir. How did I, a no-name Editor of a little 36 page magazine, land a byline like his? I wrote to Richard and told him my story. He and I are veterans of the same war—we are survivors of profound child abuse and neglect.

My story started the conversation. Then I told him about NCFR. I told him about you, our membership. I asked him if he'd write an essay for us and framed my request with this question: "If you could say something about child abuse to the nation's premier family researchers, practitioners, and educators, what would you say?" He accepted. His article is on page one of our Family Focus section.

As for me and my regular column, anyone who's ever read them knows that my genre is humorous storytelling. I have a story to tell, but this one won't be funny. This issue of *NCFR Report* is on Child Abuse & Neglect. It's at this point I must provide my readers caution: if reading about childhood trauma is traumatizing to you, stop here.

To say that my late father was a sociopath and my late mother was a narcissist would imply that I have diagnostic credentials, which I do not. What I can say about my father is that he was frightening, dangerous and evil. Sociologist Michael P. Johnson's picture of the Intimate Terrorist describes him precisely. My mother was his co-conspirator, enabling his horrifying behaviors and adding more of her own. First I would like to describe my past briefly, providing just enough memoir to establish

my expertise at the N = 1 level. Then I would like to filter this information through my family studies experience and make what I hope are a few helpful observations. Although I have three siblings, I will speak only of my experience. They are supportive, but their stories are their own.

There wasn't a day—in my 18 years of childhood—that I was happy to be alive. To my parents, I wasn't a person. I was a prop in their violent drama. My father only hit me once and otherwise never touched me physically. But he had a gift for psychological torture that's hard to exaggerate. On

What are we doing to screen for those children whose worst bullying nightmare is at home?

his good days, he would just yell or throw things. On his bad days, he'd threaten to lock me in the trunk of the car or kill me.

His language was appalling. Any NCFR member would stop breathing if I quoted him. I'm sure I heard more X-rated profanity as a preschooler than most people hear in an entire lifetime. I don't remember his ever calling me by name. My siblings and I shared a collection of names, one of which rhymes with "hit shed." He had an astonishing ability to generate terroristic threats that were exquisitely creative; a good example was the response to his perennial complaint that mom wasted money buying us toothpaste. He would always bellow "one of these F-wording days I'm going to pull your teeth out with pliers!"

My mother, for some unfathomable reason, loved this Stanley Kowalski-Marquis de Sade hybrid. Although my father was the worst, (because the psychological abuse was the worst), my mother was the physical abuser. She made an occasional

attempt at mothering, but any possibility of potential nurture here was offset by her leather strap. She had a particularly vicious "spanking" protocol. I was welcome to scream as long and as loudly as I wished, but her rule was that she would only quit hitting me after I was perfectly quiet and motionless for about 60 seconds.

There. That's enough. I have sufficient stories to rival the output of Marcel Proust, but you get the idea.

This isn't about me. What I want to talk about is prevention and interventions. I'm convinced that abusive parents get by with this behavior because we are reluctant to believe it happens. History bears me out. The first widely-publicized case of "termination of parental rights" and one of the catalysts for our modern child protection system occurred in 1874. The child was Mary Ellen Wilson. Read about her at: (<http://www.americanhumane.org>; enter "Mary Ellen" in their website search engine). Mary Ellen's ghastly plight was discovered by a remarkable social worker, Etta Wheeler, who worked diligently for her rescue. Wheeler conducted a skillful, subtle investigation and won judicial remedy for her. Now here's the irony; the legal expertise that Etta Wheeler tapped to begin the process was Henry Bergh, the founder of the ASPCA—the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. In 1874, there was more cruelty awareness established for the mistreatment of animals than for children. What I infer from this disparity is that society wasn't ready to believe that children could be treated like animals.

We still weren't ready in 1946. Another famous example of how we avert our eyes appeared in a landmark scholarly work in the *American Journal of Roentgenology*, entitled *Multiple Fractures in the Long Bones of Infants Suffering from Chronic Subdural*

Report from Minneapolis continued on page 14



CFLE Directions

Exciting Changes for NCFR and Family Life Education



by Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE, Director of Education, dawncassidy@ncfr.org

It's an exciting time here at the NCFR Headquarters. As I write this column in September, our staff is bustling and preparing for the Annual Conference in November. But this year there is a unique type of energy in the air. There's a feeling of anticipation. Big and wonderful things are happening at NCFR.

We've made some big changes over the past year, and many more are planned. We've restructured some of the staff responsibilities to better utilize our talents. We've hired Charlie Cheesebrough to head up the marketing and membership department and bring some much-needed focus to marketing NCFR's products and services. We're close to finalizing a decision on a new database which will make a tremendous difference in the services we can offer and the efficiency of the office. And perhaps most exciting of all, we are preparing to launch a new institutional brand which will provide a recognizable identity and image for the National Council on Family Relations.

There are important changes ahead in the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) department as well. The past few years have been extremely busy as we developed and launched the CFLE Exam and brought an end to the portfolio review process. With the staffing changes, I took back responsibility for administering the Academic Program Review from Nancy Gonzalez. While I was involved in the development of the Academic Program Review process when it was first launched in 1996, other staff have been responsible for the day-to-day administration of the program since 1998. Resuming responsibility has been a great way for me to familiarize myself with all aspects of the program and to identify opportunities for growth.

We continue to receive new college and university program applications on a regular

basis, and almost all approved programs due for renewal have submitted renewal applications. In addition, the number of Abbreviated Applications (Provisional applications from graduates of NCFR-approved

programs) received has more than doubled from last year. This is all good news, but it has been difficult to spend the time and energy needed to maintain and grow that

CFLE Directions continued on page 7

New Certified Family Life Educators

Following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between July 1 and September 15, 2008.

* denotes provisional CFLEs

Alberta, Canada
Benjamin Burge*

Alaska
Matthew Sena

Alabama
Christina Forsyth*

Arizona
Angela Teixeira
Albert Chavez*

California
Virgo Handojo
Sandra Davalos*

Colorado
Greg Thiel
Olivia Pierce

Florida
Nancy Medina
Jennifer Martin
Connie D'antonio
Rakel Delevi
Linda Watson
Michelle Rogers

Georgia
Regina Mc Bride*
Shannon Ivey*

Iowa
Christine Zook*

Illinois
Bill Anderson

Kansas
Sara Bedell*
Kentucky
Angela Hillis*

Maryland
Kimberly Sedgwick*

Michigan
Jill Morton
Rebecca Eminger*
Adan Garcia*
Justin Rozniak*
Rachel Brandon*
Garet Ellis*
Michael Ledwick*
Cheryl Ann Schalm*

Minnesota
Madhumita Banerjee
See Xiong*

Montana
Amanda Schoeneberger*

North Carolina
Heidi Austin
Bonnie Godley*
Karen Register*
Kathryn Harrell*
Anne Lynn Gajadhar*

New Hampshire
Bevin Korth*

Ohio
Kandice Faubert*
Jordan Levey*
Shannon Daugherty*
Megan Ruff*

Oklahoma
Nicole HolmanAlexander
Preston Ramsey*

Oregon
Angie Blackwell*

Pennsylvania
Melissa Murphy*
Wilma Link*

Texas
Karen Moody*
Viki Hennessy*
Shirlene Jordan
Conelle Milacek*
Susie Hill*
Debbie Klinger*
Kathryn Chamberlain*
Laurin Dove*

Utah
Ron Hammond
Jesse Higgins*
Lisa Taylor*

Virginia
Amber Harris*

Washington
Melissa Still*

Wisconsin
Linda Young

On the Bookshelf

Announcing New Books Edited or Authored by NCFR Members!

- Brian K. Barber, (Ed.), (2008), *Adolescents and War: How Youth Deal with Political Violence*. NY: Oxford University Press
- David C. Bell, (2008), *Constructing Social Theory*, Rowman & Littlefield
- Stephanie Burchell, (2008), *Whose Family Values? A Study of Values and Family Life among Traditional and Non-Traditional Parents*. VDM Verlag, Saarbrücken, Germany
- H. Wallace Goddard, (2007), *Soft-Spoken Parenting*, Silverleaf Press
- Claire Lindberg, Sue Nash, and Curt Lindberg, (2008), *On the Edge: Nursing in the Age of Complexity*, Plexus Press
- Marlene S. Lobberecht, CFCS, CFLE and Maxine Hammonds-Smith, PhD., CFLE, (2008), *Bottom Line Quick Start for Emerging Entrepreneurs*, Outskirts Press, Inc.
- William Marsiglio, (2008), *Men on a Mission: Valuing Youth Work in Our Communities*, Johns Hopkins Press
- Patricia Voydanoff, (2007), *Work, Family, and Community: Exploring Interconnections*, Psychology Press

On the Bookshelf is a news column intended to build community by letting colleagues know about new books by fellow members. Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by NCFR. To submit your book for consideration in the next *On the Bookshelf* column, at least one author must be an NCFR member and the book must have been published in 2007 or thereafter. Send your submission in the exact format of these listings to nancygonzalez@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. To join NCFR, click on our convenient on-line membership application at www.ncfr.org. Journalists with media inquiries are invited to contact Nancy Gonzalez at 763-231-2887 or via email at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org for information on our scholarly research.

CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 6*

program while also devoting the needed attention to the other aspects of the Family Life Education Department.

In light of all the opportunities for growth within the department, we have decided to hire a part-time consultant to administer the Academic Program Review program. You may have seen the notice posted in the Zippy News. We knew administration of this program would be a great job for someone who had worked in academia but might be looking for a new take on the field, and with fewer hours! We are extremely excited to announce that NCFR member, Mary Bold, PH.D., CFLE, has accepted the position and she is already fast at work. Mary is a retired professor from the Texas Woman's University who brings an amazing array of skills and talents that are absolutely perfect for this position.

The Family Life Education Department and the CFLE program are doing very well. We're about to release the second edition of *Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice*, edited by Dr. David Bredehoft,

CFLE and Dr. Michael Walcheski, CFLE of Concordia University in St. Paul, MN. We have plans to provide many more products and services to family professionals including the possibility of online modules related to the ten CFLE content areas. The increasing activity on the CFLE listserv demonstrates the potential NCFR has for connecting family life education professionals and meeting the part of the NCFR mission focused on integrating research and practice.

I am looking forward to having the opportunity to focus my efforts on marketing the CFLE credential and Exam, and to develop and enhance products, services and the networking opportunities that NCFR can provide.

CFLE Exam Update

We are approaching the one year anniversary of the launching of the Certified Family Life Educator Exam, so I thought I would provide a brief progress report. We first offered the CFLE Exam in November of 2007 and held two additional testing windows in 2008. During the three testing

windows to-date, a total of 31 people took the CFLE Exam. Of these, 25 people passed; 6 did not. There are 150 multiple-choice questions on the Exam. The passing score is 107. The average score to-date is 116.

We offer the CFLE Exam via computer-based testing at testing sites throughout the country. In addition, we also offered the CFLE Exam onsite at the NCFR conference last November in Pittsburgh and at the Smart Marriages Conference in San Francisco, CA, last July. We will provide another opportunity to take the CFLE Exam onsite at the NCFR Conference in Little Rock on Wednesday, November 5, and via computer-based testing from November 1 - 15. We plan to increase the marketing of the CFLE credential and Exam considerably during the next year, so we expect the number of people taking the Exam to increase substantially. If you have colleagues interested in taking the CFLE Exam, please direct them to the information on the NCFR website at http://www.ncfr.org/cert/become/app_reg.asp. ■

In Memoriam—Felix Mario Berardo

Dr. Felix M. Berardo, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Florida, passed away at his home in Gainesville, FL, on September 18, 2008. He was a former Editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family* from 1976 – 1981.

Dr. Berardo was an internationally-renowned scholar in social gerontology, the sociology of marriage and the family, and death, dying and survivorship education. Born the ninth of twelve Italian immigrant children to a Waterbury, CT family, Dr. Berardo often stressed the importance of remembering one's ethnic heritage. In his sociology of death and survivorship courses he often quizzed students to reveal what they knew about their roots, resulting in many college student phone calls to grandparents to collect family stories.

He received his B.A. from the University of Connecticut (1961) and his Ph.D. in sociology from Florida State University (1965). Subsequently he joined the faculty at Washington State University. He moved to the University of Florida in 1969 as an Associate Professor.

Among his peers, Dr. Berardo was known for his directness, integrity and original thinking. He was among the first to identify and write in the areas of widowhood; privacy and the family; age-discrepant marriages; and the sociology of risk. A talented and popular teacher, he inspired several generations of students. His radio interviews during the holidays usually focused on ways to cope with being single and alone during the holiday season.

Professor Berardo's teaching and research spanned the fields of family sociology and social gerontology. He published widely in both areas. In addition to over 100 articles and chapters, he co-authored or co-edited ten book-length manuscripts, including *Emerging Conceptual Frameworks in Family Analysis*, with F. Ivan Nye (1966, 1981); *The Family: Its Structure and Interactions* (1973), also co-authored with F. Ivan Nye; and *Dying: Facing the Facts* (1988). He guest-edited several special issues of professional journals, including one on Family Privacy in the *Journal of Family Issues*. He also served on the Publications Board and the Board of Directors of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), was

twice nominated for President of the NCFR and was President of the Florida Council on Family Relations.

His work in gerontology concentrated primarily in the areas of the sociology of death and survival. He published his first research article on widowhood in 1967, a work still cited in the literature on this topic. He was among an early small group of scholars whose work gave impetus to what later emerged as the death education movement in the United States. In recognition of his contributions in this area, he received the Arthur Peterson Award in Death Education in 1985. A corollary interest is reflected in his work on survivorship, including the area of risk-taking as it impacts on health and longevity. He also taught a course at the University of Florida for over two decades on the sociology of death and survivorship combining these interests. Other areas of interest were that of life transitions including age-dissimilar marriages and lifespan transitions and family gerontology.

Dr. Berardo was awarded the status of Fellow by the Gerontological Society of America and NCFR, recognizing his stature and expertise in those fields. NCFR, the premier multidisciplinary association of family scholars in the United States, acknowledged the crucial importance of his assistance of young scholars by establishing the Felix Berardo Mentorship Award. In 2002, the *Journal of Marriage and Family* identified his work, *Emerging Conceptual Frameworks in Family Analysis*, co-edited with his mentor Professor Ivan Nye, as a 20th-century classic in that field. Few academics receive such recognition in their lifetimes.

In his service to the University of Florida, Professor Berardo served as Associate Chair and Chair of the Department of Sociology, President of Phi Beta

Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Dr. Berardo also was a longtime Associate of the Center for Gerontological Studies at the University of Florida, and for many years served on its Steering Committee.

During the early stages of his final illness, he completed a book on the general topic of survivor education, *Living is Risky: Staying Alive in Spite of Ourselves*, an examination of a wide range of factors that shape the quality and length of life. In that same period, he also published segments of his personal journal entitled *Reflections of an Aspiring Curmudgeon*.

In Gainesville, Felix Berardo was a member of the Italian American Society, served on the City Beautification Board and managed the Sociology Table at the Friends of the Library Association. Volunteers there said that he always made them laugh and, in turn, they gave him all the books on sexuality, which made his sales table quite popular.

Surviving family members include his wife, Dr. Donna H. Berardo; two sons, Dr. Marcellino Berardo of Lawrence, KS and Benito Berardo of Shawnee, KS; two granddaughters, Maria and Anna Berardo, and three sisters, Mrs. Tess Chicchetti of Prospect, CT, Mrs. Florence Malenfont of Waterbury, CT, and Mrs. Dorothy Montagano of Watertown, CT. ■



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TCRM = Participation!

by Dan Perlman, TCRM Chair 2009, D_Perlma@uncg.edu

The soul's joy lies in doing. –Shelley

If you were to think of the Theory Construction and Research Methodology group (TCRM) as akin to a sporting organization, what relationship would you have to it? Would you perhaps check the team's score in the news or be a spectator on the sidelines of a game? Or would you be a player on the field? Many of us support organizations whose goals and values we share, hoping that they will provide useful services to us as members and/or take actions in our behalf. It can be mutually beneficial for the patrons and the organizations they support to have member-organization relationships of this passive sort. TCRM is not that type of entity, however. Instead, it is a collegial professional group whose goal is to facilitate the creation and refinement of theory and methods relative to the study of families.

Using Shelley's word, TCRM is a "doing" sport; it is a fitness exercise in which we can all actively engage. My goal in this column is to exhort you to *Get Involved!* In particular, I want to invite you to participate in the TCRM Workshop as a part of the NCFR's 2009 Conference in San Francisco. See complete details on the NCFR website at www.ncfr.org.

The TCRM workshop strives to create an environment of discovery, intellectual challenge, and debate for authors and colleagues who are doing innovative theoretical and/or methodological work (e.g., extension of existing theoretical models, development of new theoretical perspectives, methodological advances, or fresh conceptual ways of looking at extant problems). TCRM justifiably enjoys an esteemed reputation for being an excellent venue for scholars who have work in progress who would like to get constructive feedback from colleagues. TCRM can be a springboard for the refinement of our efforts and help us move these endeavors toward possible publication.

TCRM sessions comprise informed discussions of theoretical and methodological issues raised by refereed papers that are read by discussants and workshop attendees in advance of the meeting. The format of TCRM is unique in that registrants have

access to all papers a month or so before the conference. Because presenters, discussants and attendees have the papers in advance, the TCRM format consists of lead authors briefly highlighting their main points followed by considerable discussion focused on the ideas raised in each paper and on the integration of different papers in a session. As discussants have also provided their comments to the papers' authors in advance, authors get a chance to respond to the discussants' comments in an atmosphere of collaboration, pushing forward the thinking of authors, discussants, and audience alike. Family methods and theories can thus evolve in a collegial and constructive context—one that is welcoming of students and new professionals in the field.

Mark the March 16 submission deadline in your calendar and be ready for it. Others want to interact with you, learning and reacting to your ideas.

Call for Proposals

TCRM offers a unique opportunity for scholars to present and discuss their ideas and research in a highly constructive format designed to enhance works in progress and advance the development of theory and methods in family research and practice. All interested family scholars are invited to attend and participate. See the TCRM webpage at the NCFR website www.ncfr.org under the subheading "Conference" for further information and submission instructions. The deadline for submissions will be Monday, March 16, 2009.

As has traditionally been the case, TCRM 2009 will have three types of sessions:

Working papers—papers submitted individually, in order to benefit from discussion of theoretical or methodological issues with discussants and the audience

Symposia—submitted as a thematic group of 2 or 3 papers, or grouped by the TCRM chair. The papers will be related and discussion will focus on the concepts that link the papers together

Plenary sessions—with a broad, open format, focusing on specific theoretical or

methodological issues that will benefit from discussion, and will be of interest to all TCRM attendees.

Under working papers, TCRM will welcome "theory review" papers. Such presentations will provide a traditional narrative or meta-analytic review that synthesizes and evaluates a body of a family studies research literature. Daryl Bem, in a 1995 *Psychological Bulletin* article entitled *Writing a review article for Psychological Bulletin*, notes that "Authors of literature reviews are at risk for producing mind-numbing lists of citations and findings that resemble a phone book—impressive cast, lots of numbers, but not much plot." To be suitable for TCRM, theory review papers need a strong "plot." They must offer a conceptually clear point of view that creatively advances our understanding of a problem.

TCRM strives to have a unique role in the field, being part of a methodological and theoretical guidance system. Arguably the majority of scientific publications in the family studies area are research reports. They are very valuable, but to fit for presentation at TCRM, the emphasis should *not* be on the reporting of findings. Instead, for TCRM, the emphasis should be on theory or methods.

This year TCRM will experiment with an additional type of presentation: Skill training workshops. These will be half-day instructional sessions designed to provide professionals young and old with methodological updates and skill training in a specific area (e.g., options for the treatment of missing data, issues surrounding optimal time periods between data collection points in longitudinal designs, scoring marital narratives for need for intimacy). Methodologists with an idea for such a workshop are invited to contact me as soon as possible.

In sum, I look forward to a rich, engaging TCRM program in San Francisco next November. Mark the March 16 submission deadline in your calendar and be ready for it. Others want to interact with you, learning and reacting to your ideas. Be a *player!* If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me via email at d_perlma@uncg.edu or by phone at 336-256-0134. ■



Elections Council

Get Involved in NCFR Leadership!

by Sally R. Bowman & Michael P. Johnson, NCFR 2008-2009 Elections Council Co-Chairs

The vitality of NCFR depends on the dedication of its members to serve in leadership capacities at various levels of the organization. The charge of the Elections Council is to identify people who are willing to commit their time and energy for leadership positions. Please consider how your skills and gifts might benefit NCFR. In turn, we're quite sure that you will gain invaluable leadership experience and will grow personally as well as professionally.

Here are the Selection Criteria (Source: NCFR By-Laws, May, 2002, Article IX, Section 2, B 3) to help you decide whether you would be willing to be nominated and/or to identify potential candidates for the upcoming election:

- knowledge and/or experience in areas reflecting broad trends in Family Studies in the United States and internationally.
- knowledge and/or experience with the policy governance and the development of ENDS policies.
- knowledge and/or experience in leadership roles through Sections, Association of Councils, Elections Council, Conference planning, publishing, public policy or other committee work.
- diversity in race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender, age, physical ability or religion.
- diversity of geographic location.
- diversity in educational training.
- diversity in employment and/or professional settings; and
- specific characteristics identified by the Board of Directors and charged to the Elections Council before the call for nominations is developed and circulated.

Keeping these criteria in mind, we invite self-nominations or nominations of others for the following positions for the next slate to be elected in February of 2010. The terms for these positions will begin November 2010 at the end of the annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Board Member-at-Large – 2010-2013

(Two Positions Open)

NCFR Board Members are responsible for the overall governance of the organization on behalf of all NCFR members. They attend two face-to-face Board meetings per year, along with regular conference calls and email exchanges. They take responsibility for maintaining contact with the membership and reflecting the needs of all NCFR members.

Student/New Professional Board Representative – 2010-2012

The Student/New Professional Board Representative serves a two-year term as a voting member of the Board. That representative is responsible for attending all NCFR Board meetings, writing articles for the *NCFR Report* magazine, serving as Chair the Student Award Committee, assisting in networking with students and new professionals as well as assuming other responsibilities at the Annual Conference.

Conference Program Chair-elect – 2010-2011 (Program Chair for 2012 Conference)

Serves one year as Conference Program Chair-elect, proceeding to Program Chair the following year and has primary responsibility for selecting the theme for the Annual Conference and selecting plenary and other special speakers.

Elections Council Members – 2010-2013

(Two Positions Open)

It is the responsibility of the Elections Council to prepare a slate of nominees for officers and members of the Board of Directors, Fellows Committee, Program Chair-elect, and the Elections Council positions, and to ensure that the policies regarding recruitment as provided by the NCFR Bylaws, and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures are followed.

Fellows Committee – 2010-2013

(Two Positions Open)

The Fellows Committee shall review the applications from nominees for NCFR Fellow status. During the NCFR Annual Conference, discuss and vote on which applicants will be recommended to the Board of Directors.

Student/New Professional Program Representative – 2010-2012

Serves a two-year term as a member of the Annual Conference Program Committee, member of the Student Award Committee, has several Annual Conference responsibilities, and assists in networking students and new professionals.

Send nominations to Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. For additional information, please review our website,

Get Involved continued on page 14

Outstanding Paper Competition Winners

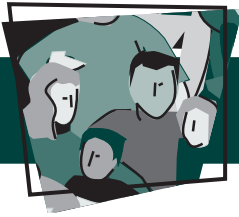
by W. Justin Dyer, Student/New Professional Representative, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, wdyer2@illinois.edu

The NCFR Association of Councils is pleased to announce the winners of their Outstanding Student Paper competition. One undergraduate and one graduate student paper were selected for the award.

The undergraduate winner is Zainab Okolo, from the University of Maryland, for her paper: *Eating behaviors, food consumption and hunger of low-income urban students*.

The graduate winner is Sara Lassig, from the University of Minnesota, for her paper: *Saying goodbye during a terminal illness: Retrospective reflections from surviving family members*.

The undergraduate winner receives a \$100 award and the graduate student receives a \$500 award. We would like to congratulate these students for their excellent work. These awards were presented at the NCFR annual conference. ■



Section News

News from the Education & Enrichment Section

Carol Darling is 2008 Arcus Award Winner!

by Don Bower, E&E Section Chair, dbower@uga.edu

"Carol has served as the Chair of the CFLE Advisory Board from its inception and has guided the board through its infancy to the point that it has a solid and productive foundation. Her contribution to the creation of the national exam is immeasurable...She has been a true advocate for family life education in every sense of the word."

"I know that many fine professionals have contributed to the evolution of the CFLE credential, but ...the C will always stand for Carol. If one were to calculate how many individuals have benefitted from Carol's contributions, directly and indirectly, it truly would be mind-boggling."

These comments, and many others like them, supported the nomination of Dr. Carol Darling as the 2008 recipient of the Margaret Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award. The Education & Enrichment Section was proud to present this

award to Carol at the Little Rock annual conference, where she also presented the invited Arcus Award Lecture.

The Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award is the most-recognized national award in family life education. Carol's career, spanning four decades, has advanced the science and practice of family life education, in the U.S. and internationally. A few of her other recognitions include the NCFR Osborne Teaching Award and NCFR Fellow, Fulbright Scholar to Finland (twice), and a USDA Excellence in College and University Teaching Award. At Florida State, she holds the Margaret Rector Sandels Professorship of Human Sciences and has received the Professorial Excellence and the University Excellence in Teaching awards, among many others. Every year, she directs 35 sections of an undergrad family studies course that reaches 2,100 students!

Carol leads the development of family life education

theory, research and practice not only in the U.S. but also internationally. She holds a permanent faculty appointment at the University of Helsinki and has consulted in Costa Rica, Taiwan and South Korea.

Carol's leadership and involvement in NCFR is legendary. In addition to serving as NCFR President from 2001-2003, in 1981, she helped establish the criteria for what has become the CFLE credential and has shepherded its growth over the last 25 years by leading virtually every certification-related committee.

Please join the Education & Enrichment Section in celebrating a lifetime of remarkable accomplishments in family life education, commemorated with this Arcus Award, for Dr. Carol Darling. ■



DARLING

News from the Feminism and Family Studies Section

by Áine Humble, Chair, Aine.Humble@msvu.ca

As we prepare for the upcoming year, our Section will have two deadlines to meet: (a) the March 2, 2009 submissions deadline for the 2009 conference in San Francisco, and (b) the submissions deadline for our Section's Jessie Bernard Awards for Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Proposal on April 15, 2009. Each year, our Section receives many applications for the conference and for the awards. However, each year it is not unusual to receive a few applications that have little to no feminist content. Why does this happen?

I am reminded of an event that happened a number of years ago, in which one of my dear sisters, an academic in the field of classics, was upset because the Women's

Studies department at her university had not invited her to sit on a women's studies-related committee. "But I study women!" she said, angrily. I smiled. Although my sister certainly included the role of women in classical literature in her research program, I had never heard her discuss her research in a feminist manner.

Our Section hopes to receive many applications this year for the conference and for the awards. To increase your chances of having your proposal accepted, I suggest the following as relevant resources:

Fox, G. L., & Murry, V. M. (2000). Gender and families: Feminist perspectives and family research. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 62(4), 1160-1172.

FFS News continued on page 13

Religion and Family Life Section Announces Award Winners

The Religion and Family Section is pleased to announce the 2008 outstanding paper award winners. Congratulations to Julie Zaloudek, winner of the Student/New Professional award for her paper entitled *Religiosity and Sexual Perceptions of African-American Young Men*. Joe Wilmoth and Samantha Smyser received an award for their submission *Clergy Use of Premarital Assessment Questionnaires*. These papers were presented in Little Rock last month, and these individuals were presented with monetary awards and plaques honoring their accomplishments. Congratulations to each of you! ■



TRAIN & CERTIFY to teach dozens of marriage and relationship programs – taught by the founders.

My practice is transformed! I offer PREP, PAIRS, 7 Stages, & Mastering the Magic of Love - and I plan to add more. Rita DeMaria, MFT

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Marriages are under enormous stress. This is the best place to sharpen my couple skills. Anita Pembleton, LMHC, CFLE

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Sue Johnson - Hold Me Tight: Emotionally Focused

John Gray - Mars & Venus Collide

Cloé Madanes - Ultimate Relationships

Steven Beach & Frank Fincham - Prayer & Marriage

Pat Love - Hot Monogamy

Esther Perel - Mating in Captivity

Maggie Scarf - September Songs

Harville Hendrix - IMAGO Connects

Michele Weiner-Davis - Divorce Busting

David Olson - PREPARE/Couple Checkup

Steve Stosny - Boot Camp for Emotional Abusers

Barry McCarthy - Discovering Your Couple Sexual Style

Blaine Fowers - Shared Goals

Frank Pittman - Marriage & the Movies

Bill Doherty - Marriage-Friendly Therapy

Willard Harley - His Needs, Her Needs

John Van Epp - How to Avoid Marrying A Jerk

Terry Hargrave - Boomers on the Edge

William Fals-Stewart - Learning Sobriety Together

Muhammad & Slack - The Black Marriage Curriculum

Gottman's Bringing Baby Home • Sherod Miller - Col-

laborative Marriage • George Doub - Family Wellness

• Lori Gordon - PAIRS • Terry Real - New Rules of

Marriage • Joe Beam - New Beginnings • Jon Carlson -

Love Education • Heitler - Power of Two • Laaser - Porn

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Paul Amato is 2008 Winner of both Burgess and Reuben Hill Awards

The Research and Theory section is very pleased to announce that Paul Amato received the 2008 Ernest W. Burgess award. The award is given every two years to honor a distinguished career in the field of family research and scholarship. The recipient gives the Burgess address at the annual NCFR conference. Dr. Amato was also selected to receive the prestigious Reuben Hill Award for 2007 which he shares with his co-author Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott. Amato is NCFR's only four-time Reuben Hill Award recipient, which recognizes the best theory-driven research article for each year.



The Burgess Award committee, comprising the officers of the Research and Theory section, faced a daunting task because of the outstanding quality and diversity of the nominations for the award. One committee member commented, 'It is difficult to distinguish among such impressive candidates.'

Paul Amato received his Ph.D. in 1983 in Social Psychology from James Cook University in Australia. After working for four years at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, he joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since 1999 he has been a professor in the Department of Sociology at The Pennsylvania State University. He was promoted to Distinguished Professor in 2007, and awarded the Hoffman professorship of Family Sociology and Demography earlier this year.

Dr. Amato is a fellow of the National Council on Family Relations and previous winner of the Reuben Hill Award for 2001, 1999, and 1993. He has received the distinguished career award from the American Sociological Association section on the Sociology of the Family. Professor Amato has made numerous significant contributions to the research literature on marital quality, the causes and consequences of divorce, parent-child relationships, psychological distress and well-being over the life course. ■

JFTR Seeks Article and Book Review Submissions

The Journal of Family Theory & Review (JFTR) is seeking authors to submit original theory, new interpretations of existing theory, and integrative reviews. Prospective authors are encouraged to contact the editor, Bob Milardo, with questions at rh360@maine.edu or by phone at 207-581-3128 or at the Journal office at 207-581-3126. Generally, JFTR does not publish empirical work with the exception of meta-analyses of specific content areas. To submit an article, send to: fttr@umit.maine.edu.

JFTR also encourages book reviews, critical review essays on several related titles, author interviews, and online book chats. Nominations of print and related media published since 2007 that focus on theoretical and interdisciplinary integration are especially encouraged. Interested reviewers should contact JFTR's book review editor, Libby Balter Blume, at blumelb@udmercy.edu.

Family Professionals and the Safe Haven Laws

by Sylvia Asay, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Kearney, asays@unk.edu

As a Family Scientist and a citizen of Nebraska I watched intensely the debate that raged in our Unicameral legislature about the Safe Haven Law that passed in the spring of 2008 and was enacted this past July 18. "Safe Haven" legislation refers to the statutory provision in place to protect parents who anonymously surrender unharmed infants and children to an approved facility such as a hospital or police station. This legislation allows parents to relinquish a child "no questions asked" or few questions asked. It protects such parents from criminal prosecution, thereby encouraging those who are unwilling or unable to take on the role of parent to relinquish this responsibility and ensure both the well-being of the child and themselves.

This legislation has been in place in the overwhelming number of U.S. states for some time; Nebraska was one of the last states to pass such a law. After the first Safe Haven Law was enacted in Texas in 1999, other states quickly followed suit. The Nebraska law states, "No person shall be prosecuted for any crime based solely upon the act of leaving a child in the cus-

tody of an employee on duty at a hospital licensed by the State of Nebraska. The hospital shall promptly contact appropriate authorities to take custody of the child." One of the differences with the Nebraska law provides that a "child" regardless of age can be relinquished; most states specify a time frame, usually a child up to 30 days old. Although the intent of the law just passed in Nebraska was to provide for infants, actually any child under age 19 is considered a child and may be relinquished. In addition, the Nebraska law requires that the child only be left at a hospital and is considered a patient while other states may include police stations, fire stations, or other government agencies as permissible sites for relinquishment.

At first glance, the idea of decriminalizing the abandonment of newborns is critical when we hear a story about a desperate teenager who leaves a baby to die in a dumpster. Who doesn't want to provide every opportunity for that baby to have a chance at life? As a result of the state legislation, the National Safe Haven Alliance is working to publicize information about safe havens so at-risk women will know

more about the alternatives that exist. Advocates of the laws point out that such laws save unplanned children from abandonment, unsafe conditions or death.

There are also many who have condemned the laws. In my own state, the debate pointed out that such a law would send the wrong message that babies are "throw-aways" and that taking parental responsibility isn't necessary. "Unintended Consequences," a 2003 report from the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, observes other consequences of the Safe Haven laws such as the failure to gather medical information, the inability for the mother to get counseling to help with grief and shame, and the loss of rights for the birth father. Still others point out that such laws are ineffective and that even though Safe Haven laws are in effect, abandonment still occurs.

As one of our state legislators pointed out in the debate over the passage of LB157, "Even if only one child gets saved by this bill, it's worth it." To be effective, however, this new law requires that the public is aware that there are Safe Haven laws in place. In Nebraska, the hospitals will now take the responsibility for abandoned children and many of them are still trying to define their role. Unfortunately, at this point, very little effort has been made to inform the public by either the state government or the hospitals.

At the same time we must realize that these laws alone will not solve the problem of abandonment. Rather than debate whether we should have Safe Haven laws, the question we should be asking is – why are women (and men) abandoning their children? Whether one agrees with the principles of the Safe Haven Laws or not, we as Family Scientists should be working on the underlying problems associated with child abandonment. We need to conduct research to provide more insight. We need to be educating young men and women about making good choices and the seriousness of being a responsible parent. We should be promoting the value of children and the family in our society. Family professionals—we have work to do. ■

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Lloyd, S. A., Few, A. L., & Allen, K. R. (2007). Feminist theory, methods, and praxis in family studies: An introduction to the special issue. *Journal of Family Issues*, 28(4) 447-451. (six feminist articles follow their article- take a look at these)

Thompson, L., & Walker, A. J. (1995). The place of feminism in family studies. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 57(4) 847-865.

Wills, J. B., & Risman, B. J. (2006). The visibility of feminist thought in family studies. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 68(3), 690-700.

Ask yourself questions such as: Does your research demonstrate "passionate inquiry" (Lloyd, Few, & Allen, 2007), including a vision for gender equality and social change? Are you examining women's lives in a way that challenges what is typically known

about women? Are you studying the *social construction of gender* rather than gender "roles?" Answer "yes" to these questions, and you'll increase your odds of having a successful application with our Section.

By the way, congratulations to the 2008 winners! Dr. Dana Berkowitz, Department of Sociology and Program in Women's and Gender Research at Louisiana State University, won the Outstanding Paper from a Feminist Perspective Award, for her paper entitled *Maternal urges, biological clocks, and soccer moms: Toward a theory of gay men's procreative consciousness and fathering experiences*. Amy Blackstone, Department of Sociology at the University of Maine, won the Outstanding Proposal from a Feminist Perspective Award for her proposal entitled *Childfree as gender transgression*. ■

GET INVOLVED *continued from page 10*

www.ncfr.org. **Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2009.**

We have submitted a nomination slate (ballots will be mailed to members in February 2009) for terms that will be filled at the end of the national meeting in San Francisco, California in November 2009. The nominees are:

President-Elect (2009-2011) President (2011-2013)

Elaine A. Anderson – MD vs B. Kay Pasley - FL

Association of Councils President-Elect (2009-2011)

David W. Sager – TX vs Minnell L. Tralle – MN

Program Chair Elect (2009-2010)

(Program Chair for 2011 Conference)

Leonor Boulin Johnson - AZ vs Leslie A. Koepke - WI

Elections Council (2009-2012): (2 Positions)

Sandra J. Bailey, CFLE – MT vs H. Wallace Goddard, CFLE - AR

Estella A. Martinez - NM vs Karen S. Wampler - MI

Fellows Committee (2009-2012): (3 Positions)

Frank Fincham – FL vs David M. Klein – IN

William D. Allen – MN vs Catherine A. Surra – TX

Thomas R. Chibucos – OH vs Shirley MH Hanson, CFLE - WA

The Elections Council wants to encourage ALL members to become involved in leadership positions of our organization. Again, consider what your involvement will be. Send nominations to Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. For additional information, please review the NCFR website – www.ncfr.org. Deadline for nomination is January 31, 2009. ■

Submit a Proposal to the Student & New Professionals (S/NPs) Section!

Submitted by Claire M. Kamp Dush, Ph.D., The Ohio State University, ckamp-dush@ehe.osu.edu

The S/NP Section is looking for some fabulous proposals to further the professional development of the students and new professionals of NCFR. Our Section promotes skills and information relevant for students (graduate/undergraduate) and new professionals (within 5 years of their final degree). We are looking for proposals aimed at issues relevant to undergraduate and graduate students, post-docs and assistant professors, as well as practitioners and others outside academe.

We are open to any submissions that are related to professional development, but specifically, we are looking for proposals related to the following: applying to grad school, the job market and the interviewing/negotiating process, and new teaching technologies and techniques. So, start thinking ahead, bugging your friends and colleagues, and join us for what is shaping up to be a great conference in San Francisco! The deadline for submissions is March 2, 2009. For answers to questions regarding submission or for feedback on potential proposals, contact your S/NP program representative Claire Kamp Dush (kampdush.1@osu.edu). See you in San Francisco! ■

REPORT FROM MINNEAPOLIS

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Hematoma. Author and pediatrician John Caffey wrote of mysterious trauma he was seeing in infants and toddlers. He painstakingly documented the diagnostic observations and radiology in his caseload. Caffey seemed baffled by these cases. In his article, he barely skirts the notion that the “traumatic forces” were intentionally inflicted. Quoting Caffey: “The fractures appear to be of traumatic origin, but the traumatic episodes and the causal mechanism remain obscure.” The final theory he puts forth in his article is that they may be a result of convulsive seizures. In Caffey’s defense, he eventually figured it out and went on to pioneer crucial developments in the field.

Clearly, we’re better at identifying problems and intervening today. But we still don’t get it. Routinely, in each ob-gyn exam, I am asked whether I “feel safe in my relationships.” Each time, I think, “where were you when I was 10?” Had I been asked the right question, by the right person, at the right time, I would’ve said something. We screen children for vision and hearing impairments, scoliosis and other developmental problems. We are offering cruelty prevention education now for peer bullying (which was also long overdue). What are we doing to screen for those children whose worst bullying nightmare is at home?

How did I make it? I had an inner life that my parents couldn’t touch. And I also knew, from my earliest memories, that it was my parents who were crazy—not me. I got reality checks from neighbors, relatives and teachers. But I ascribe my single most helpful intervention as television! I know this is heresy for a family life educator to say. We are actively promoting awareness campaigns on the dangers of the media, urging parents to use the V-chip, limit “screen time” and supervise content in other ways. Good parents already do this. And we must keep working with “good enough” parents. In my case, however, “parental guidance suggested” is a knee-slapping hoot. They didn’t care. Their neglect was my salvation. TV was my window into a world where families were always healthier than mine. It is not comic hyperbole to say that even *The Munsters* and *The Addams Family* were sources of nurture. And programs such as *Dragnet* taught me that mysterious deaths were investigated—even those of children. If I disappeared, someone like Sergeant Joe Friday would start asking some questions.

Identifying children living in abuse affects our nation’s bottom line throughout the lifespan. There’s the obvious lifetime cost to the child. But I believe there are invisible costs to our nation when it comes to caregiving for the elderly. Kids like me won’t do it. The motivation to care for aging parents springs from filial obligation—we care for those who cared for us. Our family research reveals that this role is fraught with ambivalence even in the best of circumstances. Many adult survivors of abuse are going to walk away.

Finally, I have a suggestion for helpers who work with folks like me. Use the word *forgive* very carefully. I’ve had this word thrown at me by therapeutic and spiritual practitioners, and I don’t even know what it means. If it means rarely thinking about my parents and having a good life and family of my own now, then I have. If it means empathizing with them or telling myself that they did the best they could, I’m sorry—not in this lifetime. Anyone who tells me that I have to “forgive” my parents in order to heal had better duck.

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Richard Rhodes is a frequent public speaker and is occasionally asked if he “forgives” his father and stepmother. He says the question is presumptuous and leaves him “apoplectic.” Richard says his rage has been powerful fuel for his work in writing about war and violence. This is my experience, too. Rage—and outrage—gave me the will to survive. Both Richard and I endured treatment that wouldn’t get past the Geneva Conventions. Yet because it was meted out by a parent—and not a bare lightbulb interrogator—conventional wisdom holds out “closure” and forgiveness as requisite therapeutic goals. In the minds of many, proof of an authentic healing is defined as never speaking of it. In the words of trauma expert Charles Figley, “I have often said to survivors that when someone says that they should ‘put those bad memories behind you,’ they are actually saying ‘hide those bad memories from me.’” It’s as if the unaware believe that if we can manage to “forgive and forget,” that a replacement childhood (just like theirs) will magically materialize to take its place. It doesn’t work that way. I’m 48, and I still can’t sleep on my back—the fetal position is the best defensive posture.

As we look toward the future, I see some interesting possibilities available techno-

logically. Home security systems are equipped with “panic buttons.” The physically vulnerable can wear an alert button to summon help in an emergency. I was just as defenseless. What would have been very helpful to me would have been having a non-removable bracelet, possibly disguised as an attractive wristwatch, that had a button I could press to call police. I wonder if, someday, a safety mechanism like this will be a requirement in high-risk family reunifications.

The science of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is burgeoning. I’m optimistic as I look forward to the advances in pharmacology, brain imaging and psychotherapies that are certain to emerge. Until then, it helps that my husband and close friends love me even though I’m “high maintenance.” As an example, I startle very easily. In my office at NCFR, my back is to the door—it’s the only way the furniture fits. I bought a rearview mirror at an auto parts store that I have mounted on my computer monitor so I can see my coworkers coming up behind me. Even my dentist “gets it.” The recollection of suggested dental work via pliers is a nauseating memory for me. She tells me that, in dental school, she was taught that survivors of violence, particularly those who were episodically physically restrained, need special handling in the dental chair. When I undergo any procedure more involved than a cleaning, we plug in the nitrous oxide.

Fast forward three decades. I’m doing well—I have a good marriage, a job I love, and a healthy, hilarious 20 year old son. I don’t dwell on horror; in fact, humor writing is my cherished hobby. Richard Rhodes is wildly successful. A few of us make it. Please work to find us as early as possible. And don’t just look for the kid who lags academically or who’s acting-out. Wonder also about that hypervigilant little girl; the one who behaves too well and assumes the world is not benevolent.

Thank you, Richard, for a once in a lifetime thrill for an amateur writer—the chance to work with you. And thanks for autographing your memoir for me, *“To Nancy – who’s fighting the good fight. Richard Rhodes.”*

I am grateful to Alexis Walker for her review of this article—and for her precious support. ■

NCFR Welcomes New Staff Member, Charles Cheesebrough

Your staff at NCFR Headquarters is delighted to introduce our new colleague and Director of Membership and Marketing, Charles “Charlie” Cheesebrough. Charlie comes to us with extensive experience with marketing programs in higher education at the University of Minnesota and from two Twin Cities area community colleges. In his previous positions, he had complete responsibility for marketing, institutional identity, recruitment, event-planning, college publications creation and production, advertising, publicity, website content expertise, desktop publishing and much more.

He brings demonstrated experience for “jumping into the task at hand”—he served in our armed forces as a paratrooper! A coworker asked if he’d be willing to jump from an airplane today. His answer? “In a

heartbeat.” He has also been active in community service as a member of his local school board for several years. In just a couple of months, we are so impressed with his many talents and enjoy his amiable personality. Colleague Nancy Gonzalez reports, “It’s impossible to be in the same room with Charlie and not feel optimistic!”

Charlie and wife Lynette have two adult children, Ted and Annie, and four grandchildren. Ask him about his grandchildren. Make sure you also ask him about his other “baby”—a bright red 1966 Ford Mustang convertible. Welcome Charlie! ■



Laura Miller Receives Jewson Award

Laura E. Miller has been chosen as this year's recipient of NCFR's Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award. This award, \$2500 plus \$750 travel allowance to attend the annual conference, is given to fund the best family studies dissertation proposal submitted by a doctoral candidate. The award is named in honor of Dr. Jewson, a former NCFR Executive Director. Ms. Miller is a doctoral student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Her dissertation research and proposal addresses an important topic in family health: *Couples Coping with Cancer: Saving the Self, the Partner and the Relationship*. Her research will focus on

the outcomes for both persons in the couple, recognizing that cancer affects the patient *and* the patient's family. Quoting from her proposal, her research makes "an important contribution to the literature by identifying patterns of couple communication about cancer-related issues, providing a better understanding of how couples cope together with cancer, and will have implications for practical interventions designed to facilitate couple, and overall familial, adjustment to illness."

NCFR thanks the Jewson Award Committee for its service and offers congratulations to Ms. Miller on her achievement! ■

Upcoming Themes in NCFR Report

Do you have expertise in any of these areas? Submit an article to Report!

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Request the submission guidelines from Editor, Nancy Gonzalez, at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org



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