



Report

June 2008

Volume 53.2

IN THIS ISSUE:**Families
and Resource
Management***pages F1-F20*

Every family manages resources. How well these actions support the family's needs affects their well-being in profound ways. What does the research show about families and resources? What happens to families who are "Unbanked" or those who do not engage in deliberate preparation for the future such as in Estate Planning?

What are the cultural influences that we need to be aware of in studying and serving families?

Where can families go for reliable information? In this issue of Report, our expert members answer these and other questions.

NEXT ISSUE:**Adoption**

2008 National Council on Family Relations Election Results Announced

The following NCFR members were elected to serve in offices of the National Council on Family Relations beginning in November of 2008.

The new **Board Members-at-Large for 2008-2011** are:

Gary R. Lee, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Bowling Green State University. Gary has served on the Board of Directors, Chair of the Publications Committee, Reuben Hill Award Committee, Fellowship Committee, Chair of the International Section, Associate Editor, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and is an Osborne Award Recipient.

Gary's message: "NCFR has been my primary professional organization since 1970. It has been through many changes in personnel and in structure, but the mission of the organization has been constant. It has supported rigorous research and the generation of knowledge that leads to informed practice. It publishes the leading journals in research, theory, and application, and brings together the best scholars and practitioners in the country and, often, the world. My objective as a Board member is to maintain these strengths."

Norma J. Bond Burgess, Ph.D., Dean, College for Graduate Studies and Professor of Sociology, Chatham University. Norma has served on the NCFR Board of Directors



Gary R. Lee



Norma J. Bond Burgess



Mary Ann Hollinger



Soyoung Lee



Ramona Faith Oswald



Claire Kamp Dush

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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: Maxine Hammonds-Smith

Board Members: Debra Berke, Gary Bowen, April Few, Chloe Merrill, Glen Palm, Stephen T. Russell, Suzanne R. Smith, Bahira Sherif Trask

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

Editor, NCFR Report: Nancy Gonzalez

Editorial Assistant: Jason Samuels

Adviser: Deborah B. Gentry

How to contribute to the NCFR Report:
The NCFR Report is member-written. Articles accepted for publication will 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, and 3) how articles form a complementary collection. For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Nancy Gonzalez, at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org. **The contents of Report articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of NCFR.**

To advertise in the Report, please see the specifications and price list at 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 upcoming issues are: September 2008–June 21, 2008, December 2008–September 21, 2008. Send submissions to: Nancy Gonzalez at nancygonzalez@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.

Third class postage permit.

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ELECTION RESULTS *continued from page 1*

as the Student/New Professional Representative. She has held several section positions. Ethnic Minorities: Section Chair, newsletter editor, Mentor, Session Discussant/presider, reviewer. She has also served as discussant/presider with the Research and Theory Section, International Section, and Feminism and Family Studies Section. She has held offices within the Association of Councils as the President and Past President and also the Southeastern Council on Family Relations as the Program Chair and newsletter editor.

Norma's message: "The ability to listen and sort information on the future of NCFR is important to its growth and development. Professional work with families should include approaches that provide information for families and the communities in which they live. True to its mission, cutting-edge innovation and research is warranted to ensure resiliency within families and membership growth. NCFR leadership provides the membership and consumers' benefits; they join and remain loyal. Multiple layered services have allowed me to gain wisdom, knowledge and responsibility to the family field and to the organization. I will use these skills to serve the organization."

Mary Ann Hollinger, Ed.D., Dean of External Programs and Assistant Professor of Family Science, Messiah College. Mary Ann has served in the following positions at NCFR: International Section, Chair; Family Science Section, Chair and Vice Chair; Public Policy Committee; Jon Trost Comparative Family Award Criteria Committee, Chair; Local Arrangements; Program Committee; Feminism and Family Studies Section, Reviewer; Family Policy Section, Reviewer; Religion and Family Life Section, Reviewer; Faculty Advisor, Montclair State Student Chapter; Indiana Council: Board of Directors, Program Committee and Registration Co-Chair.

Mary Ann's message: "This season in NCFR's life holds unique promise. We have new leadership with fresh ideas and vision. We have never been stronger financially. Our journal reach has been extended. Recent challenges have demonstrated intense member loyalty and NCFR's ability to deal constructively with conflict. As a Board member I will take seriously the charge to steward these strengths wisely. I will advocate for creating safe spaces for diverse voices to be heard and against the

marginalization of minority views. With my passion for international issues, I will advocate for concrete and symbolic ways that NCFR might become more global in its identity, access, research dissemination, and cultivation of dynamic partnerships with family science departments and organizations around the world. I am honored to serve on NCFR's Board and "give back" to an association which has been my primary professional home for over 25 years. I love this organization and am committed to seeing it grow and thrive well into the future."

The new Student/New Professional Board Representative for 2008-2010 is:

Soyoung Lee, Ph.D., CFLE, Assistant Professor, Family Studies, Department of Individual, Family and Community Education, College of Education, University of New Mexico. Soyoung has served as the Ethnic Minorities Section Student/New Professional, been a member of the Asian American Focus Group, a member of the Ethnic Minorities and Education and Enrichment Sections, and presented at NCFR poster, paper, and symposium presentations.

Soyoung's message: "Since 1999, I have found being part of NCFR to be intellectually stimulating and a rewarding part of my professional and personal growth. I will continue promoting this exciting and supportive environment for students and new professionals by investigating the possibilities of 1) improving research and travel support 2) enhancing mentorship with senior members and networking among students and family professionals and 3) providing quality student learning and faculty development opportunities in regards to research, teaching, and best practice. I welcome the opportunity to serve as your S/NP Board representative."

The new Annual Conference Program Chair-Elect for 2008-2009 is:

Ramona Faith Oswald, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Family Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Ramona has served as the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of the Feminism and Family Studies Section. She is the co-founder of the GLBTSA Focus Group, served on the Reuben Hill Committee, and served on the Editorial Board of *Family Relations*. Ramona is also a Jessie Bernard



President's Report

Looking through Another Lens: Resources that Family Relations Professionals have under the NCFR Big Tent

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

As I continue my thoughts about the Big Tent concept, I think about the wealth of resources that Family Relations Professionals collectively have under our Big Tent. Our greatest resource is our membership who represent world class talent with various academic training, employment status and many other diversities; we are different, yet we have commonality in that we study, research, practice

and disseminate findings about family relations in various ways and settings.

With all of the wealth of resources in our membership, how can we continue to maximize, utilize and assemble the most well-rounded team of family professionals to be on the forefront in the family relations field? The first thing that comes to my mind is to practice inclusion; to honor and respect the work of all our members,

remembering the resources that each brings to the organization. The inclusion of resources that members bring outlines the various diversities of resources that we have under the Tent.

As we look at the diversity of resources under NCFR's Big Tent, this will be an excellent time to broaden our views about how we can expand our resources to attract

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ELECTION RESULTS *continued from page 2*

Award recipient and an Anselm Strauss Award recipient.

Ramona's message: "I would like to pursue the theme of 'Families and Innovation.' This theme focuses our attention on what is new and surprising in family research, theory, education, and clinical practice. It opens a door for us to examine the creativity within families as they meet the challenges of our changing world. Also, it encourages us to examine how law and policy can enhance family ingenuity. Further, this theme provides a frame for us to link our own disciplinary endeavors to highly relevant innovations happening within other fields."

The new **Student/New Professional Program Representative for 2008-2010** is:

Claire Kamp Dush, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science, and Faculty Associate, Initiative in Population Research at The Ohio State University. Claire has been a presenter at NCFR Annual Conferences.

Claire's message: "I would like to organize: 1) a workshop on the job search for post-docs, faculty, government/foundation, and practitioner jobs and address: a) finding jobs, b) the benefits of a particular type of

job, and c) interview preparation; 2) a grant writing workshop with an overview of grant mechanisms, a mock study section, and opportunities for individual meetings with successfully funded faculty; 3) a session on developing teaching skills, syllabi, and strategies; 4) a session on translational research activities; and sessions on 5) accessing and using family data in national datasets, 6) methodologies emerging in the social sciences, and 7) time management/productivity tips."

National Elections Council members elected to 3-year terms (2008-2011) are:

Katherine R. Allen, Ph.D., Professor of Family Studies, Department of Human Development at Virginia Tech, and

Stephen M. Wilson, Ph.D., CFLE, Dean of Human Environmental Sciences, Oklahoma State University.

Section Officers Elected for 2008-2009 are:

Education and Enrichment Section

Susan K. Walker, Chair-Elect; **Jodi Dworikin**, Secretary/Treasurer; **David Schramm**, CFLE, Student/New Professional

Ethnic Minorities Section

Yvette V. Perry, Chair-Elect; **Ani Yazedjian**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Kelly Campbell** and

Meeshay Williams-Wheeler, Student/New Professionals

Family and Health Section

B. Jan McCulloch, Chair-Elect; **M. Elise Radina**, CFLE, Secretary/Treasurer; **Jerica M. Berge**, CFLE, Student/New Professional

Family Policy Section

Tammy L. Henderson, CFLE, Chair-Elect; **Brenda J. Lohman** Secretary/Treasurer

Family Science Section

Tammy Harpel, Chair; **Jason D. Hans**, Vice Chair; **Karina M. Shreffler**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Michael R. Sturm**, Student/New Professional

Family Therapy Section

Thomas W. Blume, Chair-Elect; **Shayne Anderson**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Jared R. Anderson**, Member-at-Large; **Cody Hollist**, Section Liaison; **J. Tekulve Martial-Vann**, CFLE, Student/New Professional

Research and Theory Section

Paul R. Amato, Reuben Hill Award Chair; **Laurie L. Meschke** and **Shawn D. Whiteman**, Nominating Committee





Executive Review

NCFR: It's Multidisciplinary Magic!

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

As your professional association, NCFR offers career-advancing opportunities to lead and serve. This issue's cover story introduces you to those members recently elected to NCFR office. Thank you to those who ran for office and those who served on the Board of Directors' Elections Council. Congratulations to all the newly-elected leadership!

Your Board of Directors has been discussing diversity in NCFR. They are eager to create an effective process through which we identify concerns and create systemic solutions to our diversity issues. They will continue their discussions during their June in-person board meeting and maximize the member attendance at the annual conference to further their efforts. In addition, the Board is updating the NCFR governing policies, improving their use of the Carver Governance Model, searching for a *Family Relations* editor (Joyce Arditti's term ends with the final issue of 2009), and examining the process by which conference sites are selected. The Board meets monthly by conference call and in person in June (in Minneapolis) and in November (at the annual conference.) While routine activities such as review of the annual financial audit occur during the June meeting, the three-day face-to-face meeting provides opportunities to address complex issues and this year those include: the already mentioned diversity; a deep examination of NCFR's identity; and the initial stages of organizational strategic planning.

I first wrote about the Institutional Identity project a year ago, when I introduced Dwight Jewson, our project consultant, and assured you that you would be involved as we set about answering the questions: "How does NCFR show up in the world?" and "What is our clarion call - the 'something bigger' we hope to achieve?" Now, twelve months later—after Board member interviews, Institutional Identity task force interviews and a day-long meeting in Minneapolis, a half day Board session in

June of 2007, multiple member focus group sessions, an all-member town hall meeting at the 2007 annual conference—we are closing in on the answers to those questions.

NCFR is unmistakably a multidisciplinary association of family professionals. Although there is constant tension between meeting the needs of researchers and practitioners within the membership of NCFR, the very

*To paraphrase Dr. Jewson:
"The magic of NCFR is probably
what happens when research
and practice come together."*

existence of diverse membership reflects the essence of NCFR—groundbreaking research, cutting-edge theory and intelligent practice. In order to maintain the continuum of NCFR's defining mission, we must get something from all those constituencies and provide something of value to each one. To paraphrase Dr. Jewson: "The magic of NCFR is probably what happens when research and practice come together. In that sometimes gentle and sometimes abrupt collision,

ideas that transform families and the people who work with families, are born. What unites us is precisely where our power is."

While NCFR has experienced some challenges over the past several years—as have families—with your guidance, we will create clarity about who we are and why we matter and we will enhance the ways in which we affirm and energize you—the members of NCFR.

I've been remiss in thanking you for your input on the Institutional Identity project and your feedback on the 2007 conference in Pittsburgh. Our intent is to ask for your input and once received, to tell you what you told us. We will follow that with information on how we improve programs and services based on your input. We'll get better at doing this as we incorporate two-way communication into our survey, focus groups, and other member input processes.

When I first wrote to you a year ago, we were mired in membership database issues. While we have tweaked our current system and are able to derive what we need from

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 3*

and sustain various types of resources. Within our membership there are other sets of resources such as our Sections, types of membership, research interests, practitioners' environments, and others that I know can be identified. The point is that it is just good business practice to identify, recognize, utilize and honor our most valuable resources within the diversity of the scholarly work of our membership.

As we continue to broaden our views about the diversity of resources that our membership brings under the NCFR Big Tent, we could put on a different set of lenses to look at best practices of diversity within our organization. Recognizing our wealth of diverse resources within our organization, what a great time we have to

be inclusive and hone in on our most valuable resource which is our membership.

BIG questions: These are questions that come to my mind as I think about the resources that Family Relations Professionals bring to the NCFR Big Tent:

- Is this a time that we can start formulating a diversity table that will give us a clear picture of resources that we have within our membership?
- If we charted a Diversity Resource Table, how would the picture look?
- Would it be completely based upon what we know about our membership?
- How would a Diversity Resource Table be outlined?





Report from Minneapolis

Resource Management at Casa Gonzalez: A Letter from Mom

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

Dear Eric,

You're 20 now, kid. You're going to college. You've got your whole wonderful life ahead of you. The cliché "the world is your oyster" was written just for you. In the words of my professional language, you are "individuating" beautifully; you're becoming your own man.

Dad and I have talked to you about personal responsibility, citizenship, education, safety and relationships. One area that we haven't covered in as much depth has been managing resources. As you complete your transition to adulthood, there are a few things you should hear from us. Managing your financial future is about values and choices. These are different for each family.

I'm going to tell you about the values in our family—and tell you why other families may have another worldview. Then your job is to define these values for yourself.

One piece of wisdom I hope you have absorbed from us is this: don't confuse "having assets" with "the appearance of having assets." It's a trap. Some of your peers—and even some of our peers—drive brand new cars, live in twice the home they can afford and take exotic vacations. Yet, when many of these same people disclose their financial worries at a vulnerable moment, you will hear stories of debt and despair. Uncle John, our family CPA, has a theory about this; he wonders if all of the home decorating, travel and shopping

programs on TV are a kind of "consumer porn," raising the lifestyle bar too high for us all.

Let's talk about houses and cars, for example. Several years ago, when I was an academic adviser, part of my job was to help students think about how to finance their education. I remember one young man, about your age, who wanted desperately to go back to college, but he said he didn't have the money. When I started to ask him about his finances, I found out he had a brand new pickup truck for which he was paying over \$300 per month. I suggested that if he sold his pickup and bought a reliable beater, he could afford to go back to

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EXECUTIVE REVIEW *continued from page 4*

it to operate NCFR, it does not allow us to capture and make use of information of value to the staff and members that is needed to build NCFR into the professional association you deserve. To achieve the level of excellence required, we have engaged in a thorough analysis of NCFR's technology needs and are well on our way

to selecting an association management database that will provide the necessary foundation from which to launch NCFR to the next level.

To accomplish our goals, every member of the NCFR staff must be fully engaged, fully trained and fully committed to the

really living his dreams, he leads mission trips to countries around the world. Yvette Creese is our newest staff addition and comes in to manage our member mailings, order fulfillment, inventory and purchasing functions. She's a delight; she has an infectious laugh and a bright, uplifting personality to match. We welcome Jeremy and Yvette to NCFR.

In the recent survey on NCFR's Report magazine, several readers told us you wanted to read more about the work of the NCFR Board and staff. As we incorporate your suggestions into the pages of Report, keep in mind that this is your publication. If it doesn't speak to you as a member of NCFR, let us know. "We're here to serve," is a common phrase used by NCFR staff. We like nothing better than to "hit it out of the park." When we do, let us know that too. ■



Jeremy Nilson and Yvette Creese

success of NCFR. None are more so than our two new recruits, Jeremy Nilson and Yvette Creese. Jeremy is our first point of contact for members who call NCFR headquarters and he is our family life education certification administrative assistant. He helps out in all program areas and when he is



CFLE Directions

Networking with other CFLEs is Becoming Major Benefit of Certification



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

Why do people pursue professional certification? After all, it takes a fair amount of effort and expense to complete most application processes and then to maintain the designation. But professional certification can provide a number of benefits. It can increase job opportunities by highlighting a designee's knowledge and expertise in a given field. Another benefit includes increased opportunities to network with other professionals who, in turn, can help them to do their jobs better and more easily.

NCFR has made some important strides in both areas in recent months. For many years now we have been working to bring the profession of family life education to the attention of the United States Department of Labor (DOL). Our ultimate goal is to have the term *family life educator* included in the Occupational Outlook Handbook. It will be a number of years before that becomes a reality, but we recently took an important step. The term *family life education*, as well as the CFLE credential and NCFR in particular, are now listed on the DOL's CareerOneStop website <http://www.careeronestop.org/CREDENTIALING/CredentialingHome.asp>. The CareerOneStop website includes information on certifications, licenses, apprenticeships, and military and business resources. If you type in the words **Family Life Education**, in the certification finder, it brings you to information about the CFLE credential and the National Council on Family Relations. Inclusion of family life education on this site will increase our exposure tremendously!

Recent activity on the CFLE listserv has highlighted the tremendous wealth of information available through active CFLEs. It's been great to see the increasing traffic and the variety of questions and ideas posted over the past year. Topics recently discussed include liability insurance, the

changing nature of aging and retirement, curriculum suggestions for incarcerated parents, and more. In addition, the list has been used to post job opportunities, conference announcements, and calls for papers. It has provided a way for CFLEs to connect with each other and become part of the CFLE community. A small number of CFLEs have the opportunity to meet each other at the CFLE Reception at the NCFR conference, but the majority of CFLEs don't often have a chance to meet face-to-face. The CFLE listserv provides a

Topics recently discussed on the CFLE listserv include liability insurance, the changing nature of aging and retirement, curriculum suggestions for incarcerated parents, and more.

way for CFLEs to connect with each other. A recent listserv participant wrote "I've really enjoyed the recent conversation. It's so nice to meet you all."

Being a CFLE can provide the tools and resources to help family life educators do their job better. The CFLE *Network* newsletter has provided some helpful information in the form of book reviews and content articles. But it is clear from the recent activity on the CFLE listserv that we are just scratching the surface. CFLEs represent an incredible wealth of knowledge and skills and we need to increase the opportunities available to take advantage of this amazing resource.

The CFLE listserv discussions are archived, allowing access to a conversation after the fact. With the multidisciplinary nature of family life education this can come in handy because, while a specific topic may not be relevant at the time it is

being posted, family life educators often find themselves teaching and working with families in an area they had previously not been involved.

Having access to the archived listserv conversations is great, but NCFR has even greater plans for increasing the networking benefit of certification. Our intention is to provide CFLEs access to a section of the NCFR website where they can access a wealth of resources organized around a variety of topics. For example, a CFLE needing to develop a lesson plan dealing with grief and loss will be able to click on that topic heading and find a list of curriculum, books, media, as well as the names and contact information for other CFLEs working in that area. We might also cross-reference with the calendar section and include a list of upcoming trainings, conferences or workshops focused on that topic.

It will take some effort to organize this clearinghouse of information. It may be a goal we don't begin working on until NCFR has completed the selection and implementation of a new database because, ideally, the information on the CFLE resource page will be linked directly to the database so that information is always current. It is clear from the wonderful conversations on the CFLE listserv that CFLEs have a lot to share. NCFR will work hard to take full advantage of this great resource!

Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice – Second Edition!

Drs. Michael Walcheski and David Bredehoft of Concordia University in St. Paul, MN are in the process of editing the second edition of one of NCFR's most successful publications, **Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice**. The book was originally published in 2003 and intended as a professional resource for those working in the field of family life education. It has been extremely popular

CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 6*

among practicing family life educators but also turned out to be frequently used as a supplemental textbook.

The new edition will include updated versions of most of the original content but will also include new chapters focused on financial literacy, work-life balance, group facilitation, marriage education, marketing of family life education programs, and more. Publication of the second edition is scheduled for early fall. ■

CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

Following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated since January 15, 2008.

* denotes provisional CFLEs

Alabama

Debra Ward

California

Alexandra Arceo - *

Stephanie Dunn - *

Krystle Hays

Jennifer Kelley - *

Martin Rodriguez

Florida

Nichele Bankston

Sasha Coleman - *

Maud Pasquet

M. Maria Priede

Vardine Simeus

Rocio Tafur-Salgado

Janelle Underwood - *

Illinois

Linda Campbell

Kirstin Leach - *

Amy Moore

Iowa

Molly Buttler - *

Indiana

Sarah Widman - *

Kansas

Debra Hernandez-Bolton

Kylie Zibell - *

Kentucky

Linda Trollinger

Louisiana

Diane Sasser

Michigan

Latoya Armstrong - *

Marie Barks - *

William Blue - *

Angela Bruning

Michelle Clements - *

Richard Cronk

Jermale Eddie - *

Sharon Ford

Diana Hernandez - *

Vicki Hill - *

Michelle Lathan - *

Angela Schallhorn - *

Melissa Stout

Stephanie Tilly - *

Minnesota

Melissa Hudson - *

Mississippi

Nakimia Agnew

Ella McGill-Mingo - *

Teresa Montgomery

Melinda Sanderson - *

Missouri

Anthony Faber

Montana

Jerry Gossel - *

Nebraska

Melissa Eggleston - *

Sarah Hinze - *

New Jersey

Suzanne Grell - *

New York

Gabrielle Ruska - *

North Carolina

Tamara Whitten

Meeshay Williams-Wheeler

Ohio

Krsnanandini Dasi

Jennifer Espinoza - *

Katherine Fanning - *

Lisa Flynn - *

Kay Higgs-Adams

Sandra Mroz - *

Oklahoma

Karen Wiehle

Oregon

Susan Fleming

R. Dale Labrum - *

Michael Smith - *

Pennsylvania

Jessica Pehler - *

South Carolina

Laran Jones - *

Tennessee

Rebecca Seul - *

Texas

Rhonda Blair - *

Sona Cook - *

Lauri Etheridge - *

Jennifer Hamlin

Lori Hardy - *

Mary Macaluso - *

Kalea McCloud - *

Marcia Morgan - *

Layli Pham - *

Christa Pospisil - *

Christyna Smith - *

Tricia Thomas - *

Catrina Wright - *

Utah

Anthony Aonzo

Brian Day - *

Crystal Tracy - *

Kate Wilcox - *

Virginia

Lee Bidwell

Wisconsin

Kaitlin Haase - *

Robin Madson - *

Bonnie Nutt - *

Canada

Rebecca Berman - *

Tina Etzl - *

A LETTER FROM MOM

continued from page 5

school. He looked at me as if I were insane! "Sell my pickup?" It was unthinkable.

His truck cost way over \$20,000. With that amount of money back then, he could've earned an entire Bachelor's degree. Then, every year thereafter, his likelihood of being able to really afford a new pickup would get better and better. According to a 2002 report from the U.S. Census, each level of education you attain pays off big time. The average annual salary for a high school grad was \$25,900. With a Bachelor's degree, it was \$45,400. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-210.pdf>. Look at those numbers. With a Bachelor's degree, my advisee had the potential to recoup most of the cost of his pickup in one year. But there was some reason that driving that new truck was essential for him.

Now compare that situation with that of my dear friend and coworker, Jason Samuels. This young man didn't start life with a lot of money. But through hard work and strategic moves, this Genny Xer is now in an enviable position. He went into the Navy after high school because he wasn't quite sure what he wanted to do. Then he worked himself through college, waiting tables, as he completed his Bachelor's degree. When he started working at NCFR three years ago, he was "squeezing his nickels 'til the buffalos squeaked." Last year, as a result, he was able to buy his first starter home.

But to illustrate my point about investment choices, consider Jason's choice of transportation during this period of time. Jason said I could publish this photo of his last car, because you have to see it to believe it. It was held together by rust, Bondo™ and prayer. Here's the actual wording he used in the "for sale" ad on Craig's List™. You'll want to remember this, Eric, because you'll be able to use the same spiel if you ever need to sell your mother.

"It's old, it's ugly, it has bad skin, a huge trunk, and a couple of hideous dents. It's a 1994 Dodge Shadow, with 130k miles on it. All maintenance receipts kept ... Did I mention this car is ugly? But it's very dependable."

A Letter from Mom continued on page 8

A LETTER FROM MOM *continued from page 7*

Jason had discovered a valuable truth; in terms of an appreciable asset, cars are a poor choice. In the middle class, a home will probably be a family's most valuable asset. What's in the garage—or inside the house—is less important. When Dad and I started out, the only decent piece of furniture we had was the piano. Everything else came from thrift stores. What we were doing was paying for our house. Almost every month, we sent a little bit extra money into the mortgage company than we needed to. It's astonishing how much you can save over the life of your loan. I asked my coworker and NCFR financial genius John Pepper to run some numbers:

In a \$200,000 loan over 30 years at 6%, you pay back not only the \$200,000 loan, but all of the interest on it (\$231,676.38)—more than the amount you borrowed in the first place. If you send in \$100 extra each month, you save over \$48,000 and your loan is paid off in less than 25 years. If you can send in an extra \$200 per month, it gets even better. You'll save almost \$80,000 over the life of your loan—and your house will be paid for in 21 years!

Never forget, though, that your financial well-being is predicated on blessings such as good health, secure employment and luck. At any moment, any of these can be temporarily or permanently disrupted. However, if you live below your means, crises are easier to bear. When a mortgage company approves an amount they're willing to lend you for a house, that number represents the risk the lender is willing to take—not the amount that will help you sleep well at night.

This all sounds prudent, but Dad and I are hardly nominees for sainthood. We still make some bonehead choices. We have one particularly stubborn vice. Financial advisers will often tell you that one of the first things you should drop when you need to economize is Cable TV. This is true. But I admit this would be one of the last things we would dump at Casa Gonzalez. We're all news junkies. Our lively political and current events discussions keep us alive. And if I had to spend one Minnesota winter without Comedy Central, I don't think I'd see spring.

These are a few principles for building assets. Throughout your life, however, you



Jason Samuels' car.

will see people who aren't able to prosper. Some have no opportunity. Some have opportunity and then have a devastating setback. Some have the opportunity but never seem to be able to get it together. You've heard me say that a car is a relatively poor investment. But think about the value system of those who believe that a house will always be beyond their grasp? How would a nice car feel to someone who will never own a home? How would having a decent car feel if you had to live in it occasionally?

Never forget, though, that your financial well-being is predicated on blessings such as good health, secure employment and luck.

When I hear fortunate people disparage these folks because they are unable to make use of "delayed gratification," I get angry enough to gnaw on my purse strap. Immediate gratification makes a lot of sense from one point of view. A 30 year mortgage won't seem relevant to someone who won't live 30 years—or someone who believes that he won't live 30 years. Think about a guy who lives in a community where many of his peers end-up incarcerated or murdered. For him, a nice car might indeed last a lifetime.

Another choice Dad and I made was to skip the expensive wedding and spend our money on things that would last more than one day. Our wedding cost \$500. But there are some socio-economic cultures in the

U.S. for which the wedding bash with all the trimmings is a huge marker for "making it." Without this lavish rite of passage, the couple is subject to ridicule. They're considered foolish and not ready for marriage. Never look down on these people. The price tag on dignity is very high for some. What you can do is set a counter-example and bring dignity to thrift. Live cheap and live proud! If we all bragged about being frugal, we might set a new trend. My favorite suit—the one I get the most compliments on—cost \$3 at Goodwill. You've grown up watching me give Dad all of his haircuts. Granted, his hair looks like it's been styled by a non-profit administrator, but so what? He's a software engineer—not a talk show host.

Finally, no matter how lean you're living, try to donate something regularly—even if it's not much at times—to a charity that works to level the economic playing field. Pay your taxes cheerfully. Mentor others socially. You were given loving parents, a clever mind and a good childhood. To whom much is given, much is expected, so give back. You won't regret it; somehow the universe keeps track of these things. The goal is not to reach the end of one's life with a pile of money. You can't take it with you. You'll never see a trailer hitch on a hearse.

There's so much to know, but you'll figure it out. It's OK to make some mistakes. We did. Run along and have a great life, Eric. Just one last thing, and it's from the "I've got good news and bad news" department. The good news is that I'm willing to buy you your first car. The bad news? It's going to look like Jason's. ■



Association of Councils

New Association of Councils Officers

by Dr. Richard Sale, AOC President, sale@tarleton.edu

At the completion of the NCFR Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, the new officers of the Association of Councils began their terms of service. In this article, these officers will be introduced to you.

As President of the Association of Councils, I am responsible for conducting the monthly meetings of the AOC Executive Board. Members of the group are active in many other organizations and professional activities. I am an Associate Professor of Child and Family Studies at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX. My past experience has included campus ministry and working in student services before completing a Ph.D. at Texas Woman's University as a mid-life change in careers. I have completed research in the area of single-parenting, work and family issues, child care workers and gay fathers. I am currently working with another faculty member on sexual issues of older men. Past offices in the TexasCFR have included Board Member, Program Chair and President. I am married, have three adult children and five grandchildren. These graciously provide many examples to use in child development and family related courses. My hope for the AOC is to increase the number and quality of the affiliate councils around the country.

Dr. Chloe Merrill, CFLE, is serving as President-Elect. Dr. Merrill is also a member of the NCFR Board. Dr. Merrill is a Professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies in the Moyes College of Education at Weber State University. Dr. Merrill has written chapters in a group of self-empowerment books published by the Professional Women's Publishing Company. As a result of loving animals and having two cats, Dr. Merrill feels as if she just "pays the bills at the home that her cats own." Some of Dr. Merrill's interests include reading, watching videos, studying new areas of interest, walking, being with friends, and traveling both in and out of the United States.

In the position of Secretary, **Dr. Stephen D. Brown**, is an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at Mansfield University, where he has taught since 1974. He has been a member of NCFR since 1972 and has been active on the Mid-Atlantic CFR Board since 1980. In 2003 Dr. Brown received the NCFR Distinguished Service Award for his many years of work with MACFR. More recently, he served as Chair of Student Volunteers for the annual NCFR conference in 2007 and has volunteered to serve in the same capacity this year.

Dr. Ada Alden, who is also a CFLE, is serving as the Program Chair for this next year's AOC conference Workshop. She has worked with families for over 30 years. Dr. Alden started four early childhood family education programs in the Twin Cities area. She currently consults with school districts, early childcare and education professionals focusing on parent involvement. Dr. Alden is also an adjunct professor at two local universities, provides seminars for working parents and serves on community and state boards who too are concerned about early childhood education and human rights. In the area of writing, Dr. Alden has written a book on parenting and also writes monthly columns for local newspapers and book reviews for MCFR. Dr. Alden is a runner and runs daily.

The Past President is **Ms. Marcie J. Brooke** who is a CFLE and Executive Director of

the Working Family Resource Center, based in St. Paul, MN, which helps businesses increase productivity by providing education that helps employees integrate their whole lives in healthy ways. This organization currently provides work/family education to over 12,000 individuals at their workplaces. Ms. Brooke was born in Virginia, MN, where she and former NCFR President, Dr. Carol Darling, also from northern Minnesota, took tap dance lessons. Ms. Brooke is most proud of being the mother of three married adults and grandmother of eight fabulous grandchildren, ranging in age from 5 to 10 years. She enjoys family, friends, reading, gardening, and entertaining. Ms. Brooke has served as President of the AOC, and President and Board member of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations.

Other officers include **Mr. Justin Dyer**, Student/New Professional Representative and **Dr. Denise Donnelly**, the Section Liaison. The AOC Liaison to NCFR is **Ms. Lynda Bessey**. The next AOC article in *The Report* will have more information about this group. Also, in the next article there will be information about plans for the AOC Workshop at the NCFR Annual Conference in Little Rock and other information of importance for the Affiliates. If you have an interest in beginning a state or student Affiliate or need some assistance with a current Affiliate, please contact Dr. Richard Sale at sale@tarleton.edu or Lynda Bessey at lyndabessey@ncfr.org. ■

The Taiwan Council Welcomes You!

by Chia-jen Su and Lee-shih Wu

There are many Taiwanese professionals who work and live in the United States. However, very few of them know about the Taiwan Council on Family Relations, an affiliate of NCFR. TCFR welcomes anyone to join TCFR who is interested in promoting family life education in Taiwan or those interested in the overseas Taiwanese community. Please contact us and exchange ideas and resources with us at: Secretary: Chia-jen Su (Carol) - jadecsu@yahoo.com ; President: Lee-shih Wu (Alice) - iflewlls@hotmail.com.



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News from the Texas Tech Council on Family Relations

by Lane H. Powell, Ph.D., CFLE, lane.powell@ttu.edu

TechCFR has been very engaged with both the TTU student community and the larger community through several special events that have involved undergraduate and graduate students in the planning and implementing of the events:

In Fall of 2007, TechCFR co-sponsored the fourth annual Festival of Nations, with International Education and Outreach K-12 (part of the College of Education) as co-sponsor. Representatives, most of whom were international students, were recruited to represent 27 countries. This event was advertised to Lubbock area schools, the Home School Association, and the Children's Research Center as a family event. Over 250 children and adults came to view the unique items from the various countries, to chat with the students and collect flag stamps from the different countries for their "pass-ports." There were opportunities to try various instruments and watch dance and singing performances. The TTU Student Government Association (SGA) assisted TechCFR in funding the event.

In Spring, 2008, TechCFR sponsored the second campus-wide Healthy Relationships Week. Five programs were planned during the week, including a graduate student poster presentation about relationships, a communication presentation by Dr. Lane and Dr. Bob Powell, two presentations of Dr. Van Epp's work on a Relationship Attachment Model, presented by doctoral student Jeremy Boden, and a Marriage Panel which featured four couples at various stages of marriage. The newlywed couple are students at Tech and active in TechCFR. The other three couples were from the community. All programs except the research posters were presented in the Student Union Building theatre and were well attended by students from many different majors. The SGA again assisted TechCFR by funding campus wide publicity. All of the programs received good coverage by the student newspaper which added to the education and exposure we received for the events.

Also in Spring 2008, TechCFR collaborated with Community Partners (the volunteer arm of Child Protection Services) to sponsor special events for foster teens who might not otherwise have the resources to attend the prom. The "Glamour Gala" also received support through Indiana Avenue Baptist Church "Moms to Moms" program. This is the second year for the Glamour Gala; it provides a true "night to remember" for foster teen girls who are juniors and seniors and their foster moms. TechCFR has collected over 300 prom dresses, shoes and jewelry from TTU students and from business sponsors around Lubbock. On Glamour Gala night, the girls and moms are treated to dinner, a motivational speaker and then "the works!" They choose a dress, and it is altered to fit. Hair stylists and makeup artists volunteer their time to demonstrate how to make the most of the girls' good features. And they go home with a new dress and a new look.

This year for the first time, TechCFR and Community Partners are sponsoring a Guy's Night Out for teen boys who would be eligible to go to a prom. There will be food, a motivational sports speaker, computer games, a dance instructor (and some TechCFR girls as

Texas Tech Council continued on page 12



Section News



International Section News

by Catherine Solheim, Chair, csolheim@umn.edu

InterNCFR's International Section proudly celebrated its 30th Anniversary at the 2007 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh. Jan Trost (Uppsala University, Sweden), Chair from 1979-1981 shared a brief history of the Section. He also brought several of the original copies of the Section's newsletters to share with current members. They have been delivered to NCFR headquarters to be saved in the archives. Eric Olson, the United Nations' Social Affairs Officer for the Division of Social Policy and Development, shared a presentation titled "The United Nations and Family Issues." The program concluded with Jane Rose Njue, of Northern Illinois University,

playing an African drum and joining with fellow Africans in song. Celebrants continued the evening as they enjoyed anniversary cake and each other's company. Thank you to all who participated in the celebration; a special thank you to Shulamit Ritblatt, of San Diego State University, Section Chair, who organized the event.

Congratulations to Stephan Wilson, of the University of Oklahoma, who was the 2007 recipient of the Jan Trost Award for International Family Scholarship. Stephan was honored for his lifetime achievement in research, teaching and service related to international families.

The International Section's Silent Auction, featuring goods from around the world donated by Section members, raised approximately \$450 for Section activities. Of special interest was Jan Trost's special donation of his mother's beautiful ceramic bowl. Christine Readdick, of Florida State University, was high bidder and carried home this special item. Thank you to Mihaela Robila, of Queens College—CUNY, for organizing and managing the auction.

International scholarship presented at the 2007 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh highlighted family dynamics in India, Singapore, Taiwan, China, Venezuela, Ghana, Korea, Japan, Kenya and Eastern Europe. Additionally, work on transnational family life and refugees as global breadwinners provided us with perspectives on geographic location and family relationships. The International Section's leadership team (Paul Schvaneveldt, Weber State University; Sherry Fang, Northern Illinois University; Bethany Willis Hepp, University of Delaware; Catherine Solheim, University of Minnesota) are busy planning next year's program.

Stay tuned for your invitation to participate in the *inter*National Council on Family Relations "Culture, Family Stories and Recipes" project sponsored by the International Section. Submission guidelines will be sent via email, but think about sharing the recipe for a special dish that represents your cultural and familial traditions. We especially want "the story behind the dish!" Who was involved in the preparation? Was this an everyday dish, a celebratory dish, or a comfort food? What emotional connections do you have? How has this recipe been passed on from generation to generation?

Consider joining the International Section of NCFR, meet colleagues from around the world, and globalize your understanding of family life. Please contact me or any of our leadership team members with questions, ideas, and comments. ■

Research and Theory Section News

by Ronald Sabatelli, Chair, ronald.sabatelli@uconn.edu

Planning is underway for the 2008 conference. Slightly over 100 section members have volunteered to review proposals for the conference, and I appreciate their willingness to do so. It would be impossible to organize the conference without the involvement of the Section members.

The Research and Theory Section will co-sponsor several special sessions at the 2008 conference. As examples, the R/T Section will co-sponsor a session led by Margaret Sandelowski. Dr. Sandelowski is a noted qualitative scholar and will share her thoughts on what makes qualitative research fundable. A session focusing on multi-level modeling and dealing with family/non-independent data is also planned for the conference. This session will be lead by Julianna Smith and Aline Sayer from the University of Massachusetts.

Lastly, I would like to call to the attention of the Section members the data on the trends over time pertaining to the submission of conference proposals to the R/T Section. Submissions of R/T conference proposals for this year are down 23% from last year and down 27% from the numbers submitted over the past 12 years. I am assured that in past years when the numbers of proposals submitted were down that this did not translate into a reduction in the level of attendance at the conference. This being said, however, I am nonetheless curious as to what significance, if any, to attribute to these trends? I call these trends to your attention as a way of inviting you to share with me and other Section members your views on the trends. The goal here is to not only understand the trends but consider any actions that should be taken to continue the tradition of a high level of involvement of the RT members at the conference.

As always, I invite you to share with me any thoughts, questions or concerns that you might have about the Section and/or conference. And, again, I thank the many of you who are helping with the organization of the upcoming conference. ■

Feminism and Family Studies Section

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

As I write this report, I am days away from summarizing FFS Section members' evaluations of conference submissions and putting together the program for our Section. Thanks to all those who helped with reviewing. I had so many people volunteer to review proposals that I could not use everyone. But rest assured, I may call on you later to help out with the conference in other ways!

The conference in Little Rock looks to be an interesting one. Our Section is co-sponsoring three presentations. Given the strong emphasis on qualitative methods in feminist research, we are co-sponsoring Margarete Sandelowski's presentation, "Writing Successful Qualitative Research

Proposals." Margarete Sandelowski is a professor in the faculty of nursing at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and among many topics, she has published on women's health, technology and gender, and specifically on reproductive technologies. I'm very excited about hearing her presentation. Recently I've been reading a lot of her work, such as her co-authored (with Julie Barroso) book, *Handbook for Synthesizing Qualitative Research*, and their article titled "Classifying the findings in qualitative studies," published in *Qualitative Health Research* (volume 13, no 7, pp. 905 – 923).

The Section is co-sponsoring Nancy Folbre's plenary session on "Economics of Care:

Unpaid Caring Work and Paid Caring Work in the United States." Dr. Folbre is a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts. I love feminist economists—I can't wait to hear her! Finally, we are also co-sponsoring Yen Le Espiritu's plenary session on "Asian-American Migration: Redefining Identity, Family and Country." Yen Le Espiritu is a professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego, and her Asian American research focus includes work on gender and migration. I encourage all of you to look up these scholars' webpages to see the range and impact of their work. Look for the next NCFR Report for more details about this year's conference. ■

Student/New Professional News

ACTIVATE Your 2008 Conference Experience!

by Jennifer Hardesty, Chair, hardesty@uiuc.edu

Want to make the best of your 2008 conference experience? Register for the Activator Program! The purpose of this program is to better connect new attendees to each other (particularly students/new professionals (S/NPs) and non-academic attendees) and to provide more opportunities for them to engage actively in the conference.

Here's a few of the exciting features of participating in the program:

- When you register for the program, you will choose a focus area from a list. Each focus area will have a "space" on the NCFR community website for you to meet virtually with other participants before the conference and share your interests and plans. S/NP Representatives will contribute to these conversations by posting questions and offering guidance based on their conference experiences.
- You will access the Activator Guide on the website, which will serve as a vehicle for you to make your participation in the conference more active and more intentional – so that you get the information you want out of the conference!
- During the Newcomers' Reception at the conference, you will meet with other participants in your focus group to get to

know each other, share resources, and discuss the program. At the noontime poster sessions, tables will be available for you to touch base (compare notes, go to lunch, etc.) with your group members. Senior members of NCFR will facilitate these meetings.

- Dialogue will continue post-conference on the website, as you discuss what you learned together and evaluate your conference experience.

For more information, contact Jennifer Hardesty (hardesty@uiuc.edu).

Northwest Council News

The Northwest Council on Family Relations invites everyone to their 13th annual conference on "Families on the Edge," June 19 & 20, 2008, in Portland, Oregon. The keynote speaker will be Karen Secombe, Ph.D., who is a Professor of Community Health at Portland State University. Her research focuses on the health and well-being of vulnerable families. For more information about the conference, contact Jane Lanigan, Conference Co-Chair, Department of Human Development, Washington State University—Vancouver at janigan@vancouver.wsu.edu.

TEXAS TECH COUNCIL *continued from page 10*

partners), and someone to review etiquette "rules." They will receive meal tickets for dinners out and discounts on suits and accessories, as well as hair products and other helpful items.

TechCFR also serves the state and is an affiliate of the national organization, the National Council on Family Relations. For the past seven years, TechCFR has been represented at both of the annual meetings. TechCFR and the SGA collaborate to assist with the funding of expenses for students to attend—and in many cases present their research and information on maintaining a viable, award-winning student professional affiliate. This year, seven undergraduates and graduate students will be traveling to Houston for the Texas CFR meeting. Graduate student Marcus Tanner will receive the award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, and Cathryn Bushman, an HDFS undergraduate minor, will receive an honorable mention certificate for her paper. One other graduate student, Erin Kostina-Ritchey, will be co-presenter of a research workshop with Dr. Powell. ■

Lenses on Family: A Clarifying and Revealing Conference Experience Providing Attendees with a Dizzying Array of Choices

by Anisa Zvonkovic, Conference Chair, anisa.zvonkovic@ttu.edu

The theme of this year's conference has enabled the Program Committee and me to plan a conference that is diverse and demonstrative of a kaleidoscope of possibilities for family relationships. Through the course of the conference, the major speakers will help conference attendees to put on different lenses to help us understand and expand our vision of family relationships.

Plenary speakers have been chosen from among the most prolific researchers in the field of family studies, family psychology, and family sociology, as well as renowned scholars in fields that relate to our disciplines but whose work will provide fresh lenses for examining family phenomena.

- The **Opening Plenary** by **Paul Amato** will examine the important issue of child well-being in the U.S. and whether it is improving or declining.
- The next plenary on **Thursday morning** will be delivered by **Phil and Carolyn Cowan**, who will report on the results of more than a decade of their work on improving couple and parenting relationships, in order to demonstrate effectiveness in fostering parent child relationships. Their studies will be of interest to interventionists, program developers and evaluators, as well as those interested in family relationships.
- The **Friday morning plenary** will be delivered by **Nancy Folbre**, a well-known family economist who will speak about her latest book on *Caring in Families*.
- You will want to be sure to stay for **Saturday sessions**, including the **final plenary** by **Yen Le Espiritu**, a noted scholar in ethnic studies, whose address will focus on the diversity of Asian-American migrations, and how these migrations have illuminated issues of identity, family, and country.

Informed by last year's attendees' strong positive feedback on the special sessions, there are six special sessions planned for the conference, as well as four updates. The updates have been designed to meet a

variety of NCFR members' interests and offer a very diverse set of experiences.

- The first on Wednesday is an **ITRUE (International Teaching and Research Update and Exchange)**, planned by **Steve Wisensale**, which will be an exchange of resources for faculty members and graduate students who, like me, yearn to have an international experience. Panelists who have had international fellowships (such as Fulbrights) will share their experiences. International experiences broaden the lenses that we use to consider family.
- The next update on Wednesday has a **professional development focus**, which will be of great use to NCFR senior scholars, junior scholars, and graduate students. There have often been professional development sessions at NCFR, but we haven't had one for several years. We are very fortunate that long-term NCFR member **Beth Miller** has established a productive collaboration with **Peter Seldin** (the noted teaching portfolio authority). They conduct trainings around the world and have a new book coming out on the topic of their special session. They are teaming up with **Lynda Henley Walters** to run a professional development seminar for NCFR members on Wednesday morning on *Academic Portfolios*, a new component of dossiers and other academic credentials.
- There will be a **TUT (Teaching Update for Teachers)** on the topic of **Service Learning** on Friday afternoon. This panel will include a noted expert on the pedagogy of service learning and will involve several family studies scholars who have used service learning in curriculum design and in the assessment of student learning. The session will include principles of service learning, information for the novice, and tips and hints for those experienced in service learning experiences that range from the modest to ambitious.
- Also on Friday will be a **RUR (Research Update for Researchers)** on **analyses**

that appropriately and effectively account for the interdependence of family members. This session from University of Massachusetts Psychology researchers will provide rationale, updates, and innovative new techniques for preserving the advantages of family level data.

Special sessions have been designed to meet NCFR members' interests and needs for the most current information, ranging in topics from:

- **Mathematica Policy Research** with **Robin Dion and Alan Hershey** on the evaluation of the Building Strong Families program. (Wednesday)
- **Student/New Professional-sponsored session** by **Margarete Sandelowski** on **writing successful qualitative research proposals** (Thursday)
- **Innovative Ways to Deliver Family Life Education** by **Wallace Goddard** (Saturday)
- Sociologist **Karen Hansen's** work will lend a **lens of gender, family, social class, and neighborhood to the issues of care and work among families with young children** (Thursday).
- **Gary Bowen** has mobilized a group of NCFR luminaries to conduct a leadership panel on **Evidence-Based Practice** (Friday). This session promises to attract researchers, practitioners, and evaluators and will enhance our understanding of the opportunities and challenges that the move to evidence-based practice means for family professionals.
- The final special session will be an address by **Ken Hardy** on **Ethnicity and Intervention Issues** (Saturday).

I want to call attention to the S/NP column by **Jennifer Hardesty**, outlining the **Activator** program to be used throughout the conference in order to facilitate making the learning at the conference more active for participants. What is the "Activator?" It's a new social networking tool, housed on the NCFR community portal website,

Lenses on Family continued on page 16

In Memoriam—Gerhard Neubeck NCFR's 35th President—1918-2008

Gerhard Neubeck, NCFR's "poet laureate," passed away at his home on January 28, 2008.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ruth, daughter Eva, son Peter and their spouses and children. His son Ralph preceded him in death.

In addition to his active participation in NCFR, Dr. Neubeck was a pioneer in human sexuality research at the University of Minnesota and was an active charter member of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. According to his newspaper obituary in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, he trained as an Olympic runner for the 1936 games hoping to compete for his native Germany, but he was disqualified to participate because he was Jewish. His track shoes and shirt are now on exhibit at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. He was a survivor of Kristallnacht and, soon thereafter, fled with his parents to the Netherlands and then to the United States.

Gerry, as he was known, was an active member and leader of NCFR from the time of his arrival at the University of Minnesota's

Family Social Science Department. In 1957, he co-chaired the Counseling Section of NCFR with David Fulcomer. This eventually became the Family Therapy Section. In 1969, Gerry chaired the Osborne Award Committee whose recipient was James Walters. Gerry was elected Program Chair of the Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO in 1974. As chair he achieved several record breaking feats. It was the only conference co-sponsored by three prominent national professional organizations – namely, NCFR, AAFCS (formerly American Home Economics Association) and AAMFT (formerly American Association of Marriage & Family Counselors). It was also the record breaker for number of attendees-1700, most of whom were NCFR members.

In 1977, Gerry was elected the 35th President of NCFR and presided over the national conference in Philadelphia. During his tenure the first volume of *Contemporary Theories about the Family*, edited by Burr, Hill, Nye, & Reiss was published. The royalties of this volume set a record for in-come for the Research and Theory Section. A special issue of *The Journal of Marriage and Family* on Black Families was

published, and the Ethnic Minorities Section was initiated. As President, Gerry appointed a special committee to work on a "White House Conference on Families," which came to fruition in 1980. Membership in NCFR grew to 5,500 members during his tenure. He was also a strong supporter of the importance of Family Life Education.

Gerry continued to be an active member of NCFR and, in 1982, received the Ernest Osborne Award for excellence in teaching. He was a man of many talents and interests. He wrote poetry, and distinguished himself in later years as one who honored various NCFR members with his poems.

A memorial service in Gerry's honor was held at the University of Minnesota on February 17.

Donations honoring Gerry's life and accomplishments can be sent to: Family Social Sciences Neubeck Scholarship Fund, U-MN Foundation, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE, Suite 500, Minneapolis, MN 55455-2010. ■



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In Memoriam—Kay Michael Troost

Kay Michael Troost, 60, passed away unexpectedly on December 5, 2007. Born on October 28, 1947 in Mankato, Minnesota, he was the son of the late H. Bradley Troost and Elizabeth Todd Troost.

Kay retired last June after teaching sociology for thirty years at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. His areas of expertise in sociology were: Sociology of the Family and Social Psychology. He was active for many years in the National Council on Family Relations, serving on several committees including NCFR's Public Policy Committee, as Program Chair for the Southeastern Council on Family Relations, as President of the North Carolina Family Life Council, and as a Board member of the Groves Conference on Marriage and the Family. In addition to family policy, he was interested in biosocial perspectives on the family and communication. A devoted

professor, he was interested in the welfare and lives of his students.

Both Kay and his wife Kris had personal and professional interests in Japan, traveling extensively throughout the country as well as working there. In conjunction with his work in Japan, Kay wrote and published an article about science education in Japanese schools.

Kay was an avid gardener. He loved being outdoors and was actively involved with the advancement and preservation of public parks in Raleigh. He was an active member on the Raleigh Parks Board, serving several terms and most recently working to garner support for the parks.

Kay's two children, Lorna and Hazel, have followed his lead in their studies. Lorna is a senior at Smith College studying Japanese language and literature and his oldest daughter, Hazel, is applying to graduate

school in Gender Studies.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years:

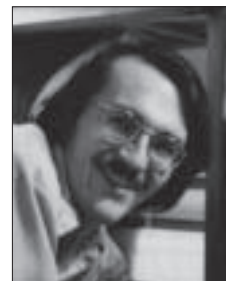
Kristina Kade

Troost; daughters:

Hazel Corwin Troost, and Lorna Marjorie Troost; brother: B. Todd Troost and wife Gail, of Winston-Salem; sister: Jan Call and husband Jim, of Anoka, MN; his extended family, including his mother-in-law: Marjorie; sisters and brothers-in-law: Roz, Heidi, Fritz, Char, and Jay.

A Service to Celebrate Kay's life was held on December 9th at the Troost residence.

Memorials may be sent to: Raleigh Parks and Recreation, #6107, PO 590, Raleigh NC 27602, or to the library at Carleton College, Development Office, 1 N. College St., Northfield, MN 55057, or a charity of the donor's choice. ■



In Memoriam—Steven L. Nock

Steven L. Nock of Charlottesville, VA died on Sunday, January 20, 2008, after a life-long battle with complications from diabetes.

A memorial service and reception were held at the University of Virginia on January 26, 2008.

He was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on March 11, 1950, to Frank Nock and Edna Hinson Nock. Steven graduated from the University of Richmond in 1972 and received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts in 1976. He taught at Tulane University prior to moving to the University of Virginia Department of Sociology in 1978, where he taught until his death.

Steven was a beloved, respected, and flamboyant teacher of undergraduate and graduate students. In 1992 he received an All University Outstanding Teacher of the

Year Award. He was an accomplished scholar who published extensively in professional journals. His most significant contribution, *Marriage in Men's Lives*, won the 1999 William J. Goode Book Award from the American Sociological Association. He worked in the Department of Health and Human Services as a consultant on American family policy.

Steven was active in local civic and arts organizations. He served on the board of the Thomas Jefferson Area United Way for 25 years. He sang with the Charlottesville Peace Choir and the Charlottesville Oratorio Society, where he met Judy Gary. He and Judy subsequently formed the Virginia Consort, a vocal ensemble. Steven was also a member of the Church of Our Savior Choir for many years.

Aside from his many professional achievements, Steven leaves a legacy of outlandish tales and spontaneous bursts of laughter. He was comfortable talking to people in all walks of life and had a genuine interest in what they had to say. He loved landscaping, tinkering with cars, the freedom of a fast motorcycle and the smooth ride of his Corvette. He built a go-cart for his nephews and had as much fun riding it as they did.

Throughout his life and all of his medical setbacks, Steven exhibited a joie de vivre surpassed by none. Most friends and colleagues were not aware of his various health issues, which proves how selfless he was. Steven will remain in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known him.

He is survived by Daphne Spain, his wife of 36 years; his brother, Bill and his wife, Barbara; niece, Elizabeth and her husband, Brian; sister-in-law, Marsha and her husband, Jeff Fuller; nephews, Jet and Steven Fuller.

Charitable contributions may be made to Hospice of the Piedmont in Charlottesville, 2200 Old Ivy Rd., Suite 2, Charlottesville, VA 22903 or The Virginia Consort, 1658 Brandywine Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22901. ■



To reach NCFR headquarters: info@ncfr.org

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

To reach specific staff members:

Diane Cushman
dianecushman@ncfr.org

Lynda Bessey
lyndabessey@ncfr.org

Dawn Cassidy
dawncassidy@ncfr.org

Yvette Creese
yvettecreese@ncfr.org

Nancy Gonzalez
nancygonzalez@ncfr.org

Pat Knutson-Grams
patknutsongrams@ncfr.org

Jeremy Nilson
jeremynilson@ncfr.org

John Pepper
johnpepper@ncfr.org

Jason Samuels
jasonsamuels@ncfr.org

Jeanne Strand
jeannestrand@ncfr.org

Judy Schutz
judyerschutz@ncfr.org

Cindy Winter
cindywinter@ncfr.org

To reach NCFR President
Maxine Hammonds-Smith
maxinehammonds@numewellness.com

ON THE NET

LENSES ON FAMILY *continued from page 13*

where new conference participants can connect with NCFR leaders and each other. By meeting virtually, ahead of the conference, first-timers can plan to make the most of their conference experience. Watch your email—first time registrants will automatically receive information about the “Activator” program this summer.

Those in the Activator program will inquire of themselves which lenses are being used to look at families at different points in the conference. The lenses through which we view family affect what is seen and unseen, as well as how our practice and research are understood. By planning a conference that focuses on our lenses, we will be contributing to expanding and enlarging how we view family relationships – following the call of Wittgenstein, who wrote: “*One thinks that one is tracing the*

outline of the thing’s nature over and over again, and one is merely tracing round the frame through which we look at it.”

In the course of attending and participating in the NCFR conference 2008, we will broaden and deepen our understanding of families and how our frames and lenses have affected our understanding. This inquiry should sharpen our family focus, allowing us to be more effective in our work as family professionals.

Finally, the conference will offer several special events. We will have a tour available for the Clinton Library, and we will be unveiling the results of NCFR’s Institutional Identity Project that we began in Pittsburgh. And, just for fun, we will have several participatory art activities such as Bluegrass music, dancing lessons, folk art exhibits and more. ■

Call for Nominations and Applications for the Position of Editor of *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is seeking nominations and applications for the position of Editor of *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*. The term of the current editor, Dr. Joyce Arditti, will be completed with the publication of the December 2009 issue.

The four-year term of the new Editor will begin with the publication of the January 2010 issue. However, editorial responsibilities, including processing of manuscripts will be transferred to the new Editor beginning March, 2009. NCFR anticipates making the selection of the new Editor at the annual conference in November, 2008.

A detailed job description of the Editor’s responsibilities may be obtained from Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. Or you may call toll free 888-781-9331, Ext. 11. Applications must be completed by September 15, 2008. The new Editor must be a current member of the NCFR.



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