



Report

Spring 2009

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IN THIS ISSUE: Family Focus On... Fatherhood

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In this issue of NCFR Report, we explore Fatherhood and other forms of male generativity. How do fathers affect child well-being? What are the historical “myths” surrounding father involvement? What effect do fathers have on daughters?

What are the issues surrounding gay Fatherhood? How can other male nurturers, such as uncles and youth workers, promote the healthy development of children?

Finally, we focus on Fatherhood in a specific country—Japan.

NEXT ISSUE: Cohabitation

NCFR Chooses Four New Fellows in Little Rock, AR

**MONROE****ROSENBLATT****SABATELLI****WALTERS**

Fellow status is an honor awarded to members of NCFR who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to family science in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach, and professional service, and who have maintained a consistent record of superior contributions to NCFR over time. Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected by the Fellows Committee.

At the 2008 Annual Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Fellows Committee (Judith Myers-Walls, Chair; Carol A. Darling, CFLE; Harold D. Grotevant; Greer Litton Fox; Robert M. Milardo) selected the following four NCFR members as Fellows in 2008:

Pamela A. Monroe, Ph.D. is Professor of Social Work and Adjunct Professor of Human Ecology at the Louisiana State University, Project Director at the Louisiana Poverty Center and faculty affiliate at the Life Course and Aging Center, and Women's and Gender Studies Program. The word “extraordinary”

appears often in discussions of Dr. Monroe's contributions to her university, state and many professional venues. This is not surprising as the many challenges she has weathered are remarkable and the leadership demonstrated of the very best kind. Dr. Monroe served as president of the National Council on Family Relations during one of the more challenging periods in the Council's history; when a controversial federal grant program called into question its core values and threatened to splinter the membership, during a sudden change in the executive office, and during a term which began early due to the critical illness of her predecessor. And all of this occurred in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the midst of disarray that affected her community, university, and her family who sheltered a family displaced by the disaster.

NCFR is fortunate to have benefited from many tireless and talented professionals that

New Fellows continued on page 2

Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

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

President: Maxine Hammonds-Smith

Board Members: Debra Berke, Gary Bowen, Norma Burgess, Mary Ann Hollinger, Gary Lee, Soyoung Lee, Chloe Merrill, Glen Palm

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Editor, NCFR Report: Nancy Gonzalez
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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 the entire organization.**

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NEW FELLOWS *continued from page 1*

have provided vision and guidance throughout its long history. Dr. Monroe's leadership is of that brand – thoughtful, responsive and resolute. She is widely-recognized for her contributions in the field of family policy having served in several leadership positions and as chair of the Family Policy Section. She twice edited special issues of *Family Relations* on family policy and law and regularly publishes on policy issues. She has worked with two state legislatures (Georgia and Louisiana), testified at public hearings, worked directly with the Louisiana Department of Social Services, the Governor's office, and the Child Poverty Prevention Council. She has been instrumental in drafting important legislation for the benefit of families at the federal and state level. She has provided services to a variety of state agencies and nonprofit groups and is highly-regarded for her professionalism, singular knowledge of issues, and steadfast determination to support the needs of low-income families. Paralleling this advocacy and policy development are long-standing contributions to research on rural families, issues of poverty, and work opportunities of women exiting welfare. Then, too, Dr. Monroe has served as interim dean, a division head for her unit, endowed professor in Human Ecology and along the way secured numerous grants to fund her work for families. Her leadership, as one reviewer noted, is emblematic of the very best contributions to the well-being of children and families and to other policy professionals working with families.

Paul C. Rosenblatt, Ph.D. is a Professor of Family Social Science and the Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Rosenblatt is a superb family scholar as demonstrated by his consistent and productive career. He is recognized for his lengthy, innovative, and cutting-edge work across multiple family disciplines, as well as cultural and ethnic boundaries.

Throughout his distinguished career of over 45 years, the breadth of his work could be categorized with the theme of "experience in everyday family life." He has written about varied topics such as death and grief, living as a multiracial couple, rural families, families in business, emotional distancing in families, using metaphors to stimulate theoretical thinking, and couple bed sharing. In addition to

publishing 11 books, he has published 113 research papers and scholarly essays, which are often coauthored with his students. Four of his books have received awards including his most recent book, *Two in a Bed: The Social System of Couple Bed Sharing*, which was identified as one of the top 10 university press books of 2006.

The significance of Dr. Rosenblatt's contributions to the area of grief research is noteworthy and demonstrated by hundreds of scholarly citations of his work, editorial roles in the leading grief journals, and many contributions to edited books and journal articles on grief. He is often called upon nationally and internationally to provide workshops and plenary addresses in his areas of expertise. As an active NCFR member for 40 years, he has consistently presented papers and posters at annual meetings and has served as a reviewer for several of the sections and NCFR journals. He has been a member of many award committees, founded the Grief and Families Focus Group and co-founded the Rural Families Focus Group. In 1997, he received NCFR's Ernest G. Osborne Award for Outstanding Leadership and Excellence in the Teaching of Family Relationships. He is also known for his mentoring of graduate students and investment in their professional development. While at the University of Minnesota he has served in some capacity on 181 graduate student exams or directed master's theses or dissertations in his career. In terms of volume, substance, and innovation, Dr. Rosenblatt has made numerous significant contributions to the field of family science and will continue to do so for many generations of new family scholars.

Ronald M. Sabatelli, Ph.D., CFLE is Professor and Head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut. He has made important contributions to our understanding of family systems dynamics, family measurement, and the role of family dynamics in adolescent development. His widely-used book, *Family Interaction: A Multigenerational Developmental Perspective* (co-authored with Stephen A. Anderson) is now in its fourth edition. He is the author of many research articles and chapters and serves on the editorial boards of *Family Relations* and the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.

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President's Report

Our Continuous Journey to Change: Embracing Our Membership

by Maxine Hammonds-Smith, Ph.D., CFLE, President, maxinehammonds@NuMeWellness.com

The spirit of Change is happening all around us and this new endeavor is brightening our path. As we continue to reflect the past, we embrace the future with gratitude. We have so much to be thankful for as members of a professional organization that embrace our logo tagline, "catalyzing research, theory and practice." Our membership is to be commended for their foresight in moving to and through our new organization toward the change in this ever-changing society.

Last fall at our 2008 Conference in Little Rock was truly a time that members con-

nected, communicated and shared together their views about the changes in our identity. It was a feeling that the members' positive reflections matched with the brightness that glowed through the lettering of "FAMILY" in the new logo. We honor the work of our membership for they are the ROCK of this organization and each member is truly valued for their contribution in continuing to making this a Class One Organization.

As we move ahead in the New Year we continue to embrace the change in our organizational identity. My challenge to the membership is to continue to strengthen

our understanding of the change that we continue to make, to believe it and stand firmly to what we know to be true and hold ourselves accountable for the changes.

In our continuous move to change, it is hoped that we practice a principle of encouragement to other members. Another challenge is to encourage the membership to "reach out." We want to make an all-out effort to reach out to members who we have not seen at our annual conferences for a while and encourage them to join us in San Francisco for the 2009 Conference. Let's start the campaign to reinstate and recruit members. I encourage each member to attend the Conference, recruit and encourage at least two other members and non-members to join you at the conference. Let's call the campaign "Bring Two."

Mentoring is another challenge that I offer. I am sure all of us serve as mentors to our students. I maintain that we can open up the mentorship path to include mentoring mentors. I believe that we never grow to a position of not benefiting from mentorship. Mentoring Mentors is a broader view of outreaching to reinstate members and invite them back. Please read Program Chair Raeann Hamon's article about a special way to honor your mentor! Let's continue to be a voice for NCFR so that it becomes a household name to family professionals; when the word FAMILY is spoken, the mind reflects NCFR. I invite members to come up with ways to spread the word "NCFR" so that it can become a household name for professionals in family related areas.

As members of NCFR, we can master change and bring back our members and increase the membership. We are the profession that has a clear understanding and know more about the family and its relationship. We can sail this ship; join me

In Memoriam—Karen Hanula Rosen

Dr. Karen Hanula Rosen, 62, a therapist and former professor of marriage and family therapy at Virginia Tech University's Falls Church campus, died April 29, 2008 of brain cancer at her home in Clifton, VA.

Dr. Rosen was born in Vineland, N.J., and received an undergraduate degree in education from Radford University in 1968. After teaching for several years at Francis T. Maloney High School in Meriden, CT, where she also founded the girls' basketball and track teams, she took a teaching hiatus to raise two sons.

She moved to Northern Virginia in 1977 and received a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech in 1984.

She worked as a clinical therapist in private practice and as a caseworker and guardian for the Refugee Unaccompanied Minors program. She received a doctorate from Virginia Tech in 1992, with an emphasis on counseling education.

As a professor of marriage and family therapy at Virginia Tech's National Capital Region campus in Falls Church, Dr.

Rosen taught graduate-level courses in clinical supervision, received two awards for teaching excellence and was a mentor to graduate students in marriage and family therapy.

She published a number of journal articles, one book and 12 book chapters.

She was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2004 and was unable to continue the teaching career she loved. Named professor emerita in 2005, Dr. Rosen remained as active in the Virginia Tech program as her health would permit and also was a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Board of Counseling.

She was a triathlete who completed her third Reston Triathlon in 2003. Her Race for Hope Team, Karen's Crew, has more than 80 members and has raised nearly \$20,000 for brain cancer research.

Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Cecil C. Rosen III of Clifton; two sons, Jeffrey Rosen of Fairfax City and Michael Rosen of Oak Hill, Va.; her mother, Mary Hanula of Vineland, N.J.; a brother; and one grandson.

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In his role as Senior Research Associate in the Center for Applied Research in Human Development at the University of Connecticut, he has been a leader in bringing knowledge of family theory, adolescent development, measurement, and program evaluation to numerous community and youth programs and agencies in the State of Connecticut. His outreach efforts have been significant in meeting funders' demands for accountability and empirical validation of effective youth programming. Ron has been active in NCFR since he was a graduate student, and he has had numerous leadership roles in the Research and Theory Section, which he now chairs.

Lynda Henley Walters, Ph.D. is Professor Emerita at the University of Georgia, where she has served as Professor and Department Head of Child and Family Development and as Associate Dean for Research and Instruction of the College of

Family and Consumer Sciences. Her contributions to the family field include pioneering work in the study of adolescent pregnancy, the parenting of children with alternative sexual orientations, father-child relationships, and comparative family research. She was instrumental in introducing the importance of family law perspectives to family policy research.

Her contributions to graduate education are unparalleled. She has served as major professor for 28 doctoral students and 13 Master's students and served on over 140 graduate student committees at the University of Georgia. She was a founder in 1977 of Quint State, a conference organized and run wholly by and for graduate students known more formally as the Annual Southeastern Symposium on Child and Family Development. Quint State revolves among five universities in the Southeast and continues to this day.

Lynda's national leadership includes service on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Family Relations*, and the *Journal of Home Economics*. She has served as President of NCFR (1990-1991) and has held other NCFR offices and many committee leadership roles. She has also served as Chair of NCFR Strategic Planning and Long Range Planning Committees, which were responsible for charting the future of NCFR. She has also been very involved in coordinating NCFR activities in conjunction with the International Years of the Family. Her superior record of contributions to NCFR, her international research and participation in global conferences, and her distinguished scholarship taken altogether have made an enduring contribution to the field of family science.

To these very worthy Fellows, "well done!" Please extend your congratulations to them for their contributions to our field. ■

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 3*

in the campaign to embrace change and honor members of NCFR.

As I bring closure to this article, I want to take the time to honor Fatherhood, the theme for this issue. As I was writing the first draft for this article, I was flying back from the Tennessee Valley to Houston after having made the final arrangements for my father who made his transition on one of my brother's birthday and was buried the day after our younger brother's birthday, December 6 and December 9, respectively.

I was very fortunate to have grown up in my parents' household and in their lives. The oldest and only daughter, I was given the opportunity to grow and develop and become all I was created to be with the drive that both parents instilled in me. I was called "Sister" by my parents and brothers, and was well protected by my parents and brothers. My hero (father) and *shero* (mother) were also my first teachers, mentors and friends. I was taught to be kind, patient, share and develop a loving spirit; my parents were my role models. My most memorable gift from my father was my high school graduation gift; a very well kept pre-owned two-door blue and white 1963 Ford. That car served me through college days as a commuter student and

well into young adulthood. My parents and brothers truly believed in me and, above all, they trusted my judgment and decision-making skills. Because of my role in the family, I am sure this is the reason I went on to align my academic program with the knowledge and skills that I learned and developed in my "institution of family." My hero made certain that I did not want for anything throughout childhood and as

I grew into adulthood; both parents appointed me to make decisions for the family including those regarding their personal affairs. What I remembered most was "Sister will do the right thing." I am at peace because my father has joined my mother in their heavenly home. I honor my Hero for the role he played in my life.

"I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning to sail my ship." Louisa May Alcott ■

Journal of Family Theory and Review: Call for Special Issue Proposals

We are now accepting proposals from prospective guest editors for special issues of the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. Our intent is to provide opportunities to advance theory and develop comprehensive reviews in key areas of family studies. The focus of a special issue can be centered on a relatively narrow avenue of theory (e.g., accounting for issues of class in queer theory) or research (e.g., relationships with in-laws), or rather broad avenues (e.g., intersectionality, or relationships with kin). Whether the focus is narrow or broad our goal is to provide opportunities for guest editors to design collections of articles that significantly advance our understanding of a topic and do so in a way that would not be possible in a single article.

Special issues will typically comprise 4-8 articles. Proposals should clearly state the scope and purpose of a special issue, identify potential authors and sample titles for contributions, and include a CV for the guest editor(s). Initial proposals are due March 30 (via email) and will be reviewed by the editor and members of the journal's editorial board. Please note the journal does not publish empirical reports with the exception of meta-analyses.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the editor: Robert Milardo, Ph.D. via email at Rhd360@maine.edu. ■



Executive Review

Reflections on Fatherhood— by a Friend and Daughter

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

Tony Dungy, recently retired coach of the Superbowl-winning Indianapolis Colts and former University of Minnesota quarterback, credits his father with his success. It's not unusual for sons to recognize the importance of their dad's love and guidance. Our research affirms, however, that a father's influence on a daughter is also significant.

My friend Ron and his wife Teri divorced when their daughter was in junior high. Ron agreed to move out of their home and delay selling it until their daughter had completed high school. He set about searching for a one-bedroom apartment until I suggested he consider a home that would be large enough to accommodate his daughter as well.

There are 12 years between my brother and me. That age gap gave me the opportunity to be the object of my dad's attention. When I was 10, he taught me how to mow lawn. To this day I go to great lengths to blow the grass away from the flower beds and to make certain I approach trees and bushes with the blower pointing away from them so as not to damage the bark. I overlap the rows just enough to prevent any grass from escaping the blade but not so much that I waste effort cutting it twice.

When I took an interest in football it was dad who taught me to grip the pigskin with my fingers spread across the laces. I could throw a perfect spiral and dropkick the ball clear over our house.

My sister and I were two of four members of the winning bowling team in junior high. Dad went over and over the five step approach with us until we had it down and could roll the ball with just enough hook to put it in between the first and third pins.

Occasionally my sister and I were allowed to accompany dad on his Saturday morning golf outing. We squabbled over who would

carry the clubs even though neither of us was big enough or strong enough to make the entire 18 holes without help. He taught us how to grip the club with the little fingers interlocking and, most importantly, the etiquette of the game.

Mom and dad divided up the duties of the household pretty much along the traditional gender lines of responsibility that existed in the 1960s. I don't recall one time when dad showed up at a school conference. But what he left me with a lifelong love of sports. It was in those moments that dad forged his relationship with his girls. When the trying teen years passed and we grew



into adults, dad became old and frail. We rallied to his side to love him and care for him – with clear memories of the times he spent teaching us how to close out a 7/10 split and ride a two-wheel bike. We buried dad four years ago this past Christmas, in his golf jacket and with his favorite putter.

When Ron opted for the two-bedroom apartment, he was sending his daughter a message. She was not a houseguest—it was her home! By providing his daughter with her own space in his home, he made room for her in his heart.

This month marks the end of my second year with NCFR and the beginning of the

Journal of Family Theory & Review. We congratulate Dr. Robert Milardo, editor, on his first of many outstanding issues of this journal. I would like to point out that in this issue of *NCFR Report*, on the theme of Fatherhood, Bob offers us an article emphasizing the importance of other nurturing adults in children's lives, specifically uncles and aunts. Then, we are grateful for a charming companion piece about a famous uncle in NCFR, Reuben Hill. Jeffrey Hill, nephew of Reuben Hill, is uniquely qualified to tell us about his "rich" Uncle Reuben.

We are in the midst of difficult economic times. Our new U.S. President has told us that "it may get worse before it gets better." Many NCFR members are feeling the financial pinch. Often the first way in which we tighten our belts is to cut any "extras" in our budgets. Memberships in professional associations may seem like an expense we can give up for a year until the economy turns around. I urge members to remember how professional development and networking directly affects our job prospects and career growth. For those of us who are fortunate enough to have financial security during this downturn, might we consider this an important window of time to "give back?" Our "benefactor" membership level at \$200 supports the organization and helps us to keep membership fees, conference registrations and other services as affordable as possible. Now more than ever, we ask for your continued support through membership, conference attendance and your leadership in elected office and volunteer service. ■

NCFR Membership—Stay with Us!

Be sure to keep your NCFR membership current so that you don't miss an issue of *NCFR Report* or any of the other benefits of membership, including a discount on annual conference registration. We send reminders, but renew or extend your membership today at: <http://www.ncfr.org/member/info.asp>.



Report from Minneapolis

Angels Fly Coach

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

I meet the most amazing people on airplanes. Sometimes I get a seatmate who's a dud, but most of the time the person I sit next to has a story to tell and tells it. Airplanes are like confessionals. We're seated at random with total strangers. My seatmate knows that the likelihood of running into me again is extremely remote. I've been told that I have "one of those faces," that people feel they can tell their problems to. Several years ago, on an airplane, I heard the best story I had ever heard—or would likely ever hear again.

Fate seated me next to another mom, about my age. She was a professional woman, just like me. She had a busy work life and demanding responsibilities on the home front, just like me. We connected right away. She told me of her work, and then she shared that she was the mom of a special needs kid. We started commiserating about how hard it is to balance everything, and I asked her a couple of rhetorical questions: "How do you do it? What's your secret?" I wasn't prepared for the answer; she literally told me her secret.

The truth was that she hadn't always "balanced everything." She had gone through a very, very dark time in her life when everything—professionally and personally—flew apart. That was just half of her captivating story. The most fascinating part was the story of her boss—who may have saved her life—who will never get public recognition for being the hero that she was.

My seatmate—let's call her Ann—was parenting a child whose behavior was developmentally unusual. He was meeting some of the benchmarks, but not others. He was a late talker. He didn't socialize well. He had eccentric behaviors. Cognitively he was very bright, and he was physically healthy. But he was atypical in ways that the daycare providers and the pediatrician couldn't quite put a finger on.

Family professionals who are reading this today are already way ahead of me; they're

thinking "Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)." As it turns out, that was the child's diagnosis—it was a form of ASD called Asperger's Syndrome. But when I heard this story about 15 years ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had not launched their "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign. Higher functioning autism was not on anyone's radar screen; even the pediatrician missed it. It was finally diagnosed by a specialist.

When Ann and her husband got the news, she "fell apart." She became suicidal and had to be hospitalized for several weeks. She had all she could do to tell her boss—and Ann felt as if this phone call was her

During these weeks when Ann was disabled, Marge did Ann's job to the point of ghost writing documents and filing reports for her. To the workplace observer, it looked like Ann was hard at it.

When Ann emerged from her crisis and was ready to return to work, she dreaded showing up in the office. She was sure that the stigma was permanent and her career torpedoed. Everyone would walk eggshells around her. If she walked up to a gathering at the water cooler, she was sure that the group members would say something polite and then scatter like cockroaches.

Then Marge told her the news: "Ann, you haven't been ill. You've been cranking out

Several years ago, on an airplane, I heard the best story I had ever heard—or would likely ever hear again.

last. She couldn't see a way out. She was convinced that her life—and her son's life—were over.

Ann's boss—let's call her Marge—pulled off an act of compassion that was awe-inspiring. She told Ann to "forget about work, forget about sick time, forget about anything other than getting well." Everyone always says things like this, don't they?—"take all the time you need," is a favorite. In practice, however, workplace forbearance seems to run out coincidentally about the same time that one's sick time does. Marge's "policy handbook" was different. She told Ann that she'd "handle it." She instructed Ann that she was not to talk to anyone from work during her absence.

Then, for several weeks, Marge did both jobs—her own and Ann's. In a performance that could earn her an Oscar, Marge manufactured a "cover story" for Ann's absence. I don't remember all the details today, but Ann had the type of job that might plausibly involve working out of the area for a few weeks. Marge convinced the workplace that Ann was tackling a special project off-site.

the paperwork the whole time." Marge brought her up to speed and showed Ann all of the memos she had "written" from her hospital bed. She coached her on everything that was done on her behalf, so she could make a seamless reentry. Ann was stunned. She told her boss that there was no way she could come back and take credit for work that Marge had been ghosting for weeks.

What did her boss say? "Ann—you must never speak of this. You know why? Because if you did, think of what would happen to me?" Ann was stuck. She was forced to become a co-conspirator with her boss—not to protect herself—but to protect this self-sacrificing woman from the ramifications of skirting company policy. Marge had no cold personnel regulations. There was no coworker gossip. No bureaucracy. No sick leave. No short term disability. No doctor's verifications. No paper trail. The whole event was off the books.

The end of this story is what Hollywood movies are made of. Ann enrolled her son

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CFLE Directions

Michael Walcheski Receives CFLE Award at NCFR Conference



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

The National Council on Family Relations' 70th Annual Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas provided a wonderful opportunity for family professionals to gather together to share research, ideas, resources, stories and more. A number of Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) related groups and committees met to network and to discuss opportunities to enhance and grow the CFLE program and the family life education department. Here are some of the highlights:

CFLE Advisory Board

The CFLE Advisory Board met for over 4 hours on Tuesday to review accomplishments over the past year and establish strategies for the work that lies ahead. One of the major accomplishments for 2008

included the revision of the family life education work experience documentation process. This included replacement of the letter of recommendation requirement with an assessment and verification form to be completed by the employer. The Advisory Board also worked to combine the *University and College Curriculum Guidelines* and the *CFLE Exam Content Outline* into one document to be used in both curriculum and program planning and as a reference for the CFLE Exam. This information is now available on the CFLE section of the NCFR website <http://www.ncfr.org/cert/index.asp>

The CFLE Advisory Board thanked **Kevin Allemagne**, **Jeannie Buckner**, and **Susan Eitel** for their work over the past three years.

New members joining the Advisory Board include **Panayiota Courelli** as a *Practitioner Representative* and **Tara Newman** as the *Student/New Professional Representative*.

The Board has a number of projects planned for 2009 including the development of an official "code of ethics" for the CFLE program, the possibility of developing online continuing education modules focused on the ten family life content areas, updating the *Family Science: Professional Development and Career Opportunities* booklet, and updating the *Tools for Ethical Thinking and Practice* booklet. They will also further research interest expressed by NCFR members for a family science exit exam or the need for NCFR to consider offering accreditation. The CFLE Advisory

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REPORT FROM MINNEAPOLIS *continued from page 6*

in a special program, and he got the crucial therapeutic intervention he deserved. At the moment Ann told me her story, her son was progressing beautifully. They had every realistic hope that he would live a full life. But the shocking twist to this story is what happened to Ann's boss. I mean, you can't even make this stuff up! About two years after the incident, Marge was killed in a traffic accident. Marge took Ann's story to the grave, literally.

This is a nonfiction parable about ethical dilemmas, mental health stigmas and work-life policy—but it's primarily one of astonishing love. Marge took a heck of a professional risk. She worked-around company policy and might have even broken some laws. But Marge didn't see life through temporal rules. All she could see was a colleague she loved dearly who was facing a life-threatening emergency. Marge knew that Ann was temporarily fragile. If she had been "outed" in the workplace, it

could be the final blow that pushed her over the edge. Marge had an ironclad faith that Ann would recover and become all she had been and more. The work got done. And Ann got well.

No one other than Ann's family will ever know about Marge and her unsung heroism, except for a stranger on an airplane and now, years later, the readership of this stranger's column.

The moral of the story is divine and self-evident. At 20,000 feet, I may have been one degree of separation from seraphim. But the practical lesson I learned from Ann is this: ever since, when I've been on an airplane and my seatmate starts to press-on after some small talk, I put away the Skymall® catalog and listen. In my faith tradition, scripture tells me that "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Who knows? Someday I may get an opportunity to sit next to an angel who flies coach.

Epilogue: It used to be that when infants and small children were developing slightly atypically, many educators and health providers took a "wait and see" approach. We know that children grow on their own timetables, and we resisted the possibility that we could alarm a parent unnecessarily.

This is no longer best practice. Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental problems are best identified early to ensure the child has access to therapies during critical developmental stages. For example, if an infant is slow to make eye contact, or if a toddler is not pointing at things of interest, it's best to refer the parent to a pediatrician to be sure. Check out the CDC's *Learn the Signs—Act Early* Campaign. <http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/>

Finally, although Ann's story is true, I changed a couple of recognizable details to ensure that neither she nor Marge would ever be identified. ■

CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between September 16 and December 31, 2008.

Alabama

Youn Mi Lee

British Columbia, Canada

Aliya Hirji*

Florida

C. Delene Cole
Stephanie Kaufmann*
Cassandra Corbin-Thaddies

Iowa

Anne Marie Kofta*

Illinois

Diane Williams

Indiana

Jaime Wilhoite*

Louisiana

Cyndi Scroggs*

Maine

Katherine Porter

Michigan

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Valerie Young*

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Denise Peterson-Short*

Andrea Sears*

Kathleen Isaacson*

Kathryn Longenbarger*

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Tonia Schoenherr*

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Lindsey Mills*
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Bethany Arie*
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Utah

Casey Davis*
Terrence Spalding*

Virginia

Nadia Payne*

Wisconsin

Heidi Schlewitz*

Wyoming

Gina Casper*
Kristin Herman*

[* - Provisional]

CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 6*

Board is also interested in sponsoring another Practitioner Update for Practitioner's (PUP) session at the NCFR Conference in San Francisco.

CFLE Exam

Eight people took the CFLE Exam onsite in Little Rock on Wednesday. An additional nine took it via computer-based testing during the November 1-15 testing window. NCFR will begin the work of assessing the exam in late 2009. We'll review test questions and determine if any need to be replaced and re-evaluate the cut score. So far the CFLE Exam is testing well and meeting expectations.

CFLE Reception

The CFLE Reception was a great chance for CFLEs to connect with each other, to share information about the success of the CFLE program, and to recognize those who have volunteered their time and expertise to the advancement of family life education.

CFLE Advisory Board Chair, **Carol Darling**, CFLE, presented a well-deserving **Michael Walcheski**, CFLE, with the **2008 Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the CFLE Program**. Michael edited the *Family Life Education Syllabus Collection* and was co-editor of both the first and second editions of *Family Life Education: Integrating Theory and Practice*. These publications have provided thousands of dollars in revenue for the family life education department. In addition, Michael does a great job of marketing NCFR and the CFLE credential to students at Concordia University in St. Paul, MN where he is the Associate Dean and Professor of Psychology and Family Studies.

We recognized **Susan Murray**, CFLE, for her service as Chair of the Academic Program Review and **Deborah Bailey**, **Dorothy Berglund**, **Kathy Bosch**, **Nina Chen**, **Bryce Dickey**, and **Maisie Ross**, all of whom served on the Certification Review Commit-



Carol Darling, CFLE, presents Michael Walcheski, CFLE, with the 2008 Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the CFLE Program.

tee. This Committee was discontinued with the introduction of the CFLE Exam.

Three new academic programs were recognized for receiving NCFR approval in 2008. They include **American Public University**, **Central Washington University** and **Southeast Missouri State University**. An

CFLE Directions continued on page 9



Annual Conference

NCFR Conference 2009: *Families in a Multicultural World*

by Raeann Hamon, PhD, Program Chair, Messiah College rhamon@messiah.edu

If you're like me, the conclusion of one NCFR annual meeting energizes me to begin anticipating the next. Thus, as 2009 NCFR Program Chair, I want to whet your appetite for the exciting events we have planned for you in November 2009, when NCFR meets in San Francisco. The conference theme is *Families in a Multicultural World*.

The international character of San Francisco will afford an exciting context for examining how diversity issues affect family scholarship, practice, policy and education and how each of us might contribute to better understanding of the heterogeneity, as well as the commonalities of diverse families, not only in the United States, but also around the globe. This theme encourages comparative work on a variety of family

topics, with particular attention to cross-cultural and international contributions to these matters. The hope is that scholars, educators and practitioners might share their varying perspectives on topics of concern to us all.

Dr. Scott Stanley, Research Professor, in the Department of Psychology and Co-Director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver, and **Dr. Pamela Smock**, Research Professor, Population Studies Center and Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan, will offer a plenary on Cohabitation. Stanley will examine cohabitation and risks of various pathways of couple trajectories of development, particularly findings relative to "sliding vs. deciding," while Smock will address social

class and gender variation in the meanings and implications of cohabitation.

Dr. Andrew Cherlin, Professor of Public Policy in the Department of Sociology at Johns Hopkins will be featured in Thursday's plenary, entitled *Merry-Go-Round Partnership Turnover in U.S. and other Western Countries*. Dr. Cherlin will be comparing U.S. data with that of other western countries and discuss why partnership turnover is highest in the U.S.

In recognition of November as National Adoption Month, Friday's plenary will focus on Adoption. **Dr. Harold Grotevant**, Rudd Family Foundation Chair of Psychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, will speak on *New Worlds of Adoption: Growing Up in*

Annual Conference continued on page 10

CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 8*

additional 13 programs that submitted renewal applications were also recognized. Interestingly, NCFR has received 5 new program applications in the month of November. **Mary Bold**, CFLE, APR Liaison, will work with the Academic Program Review Committee to carry out their reviews. Most likely they will all be recognized as approved programs at the CFLE Reception in 2009!

CFLE Focus Group

We had a small but dedicated group at the 7:15 a.m. Focus Group meeting, led by Chair, **Wm. Michael Fleming**, CFLE. We discussed some of the activities of the CFLE Advisory Board and also spent time considering marketing strategies.

Academic Program Review Networking Session

The APR Networking session provided an opportunity for representatives from NCFR-approved programs to compare

notes and for those interested in getting their program approved to gather information. The hot topic of discussion was the growing need for some form of formal assessment for family science programs such as an exit or assessment exam. This conversation led to the consideration of accreditation. One of the reasons family science programs are looking for outside assessment is because there is no accreditation for family science programs. Should NCFR consider moving in that direction? This would be a huge undertaking so we need to consider all options carefully.

How to Become A Certified Family Life Educator

We had a great turn-out for the How to Become a CFLE session with over 30 attendees. There is a lot of interest in the CFLE credential both through the Abbreviated Application process and the CFLE Exam. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is

available on the NCFR website at http://www.ncfr.org/cert/CFLE_prod.asp#10

Practitioner Update for Practitioners (PUP) - Innovative Ways to Deliver Family Life Education

The NCFR Conference in Little Rock wrapped up with a great presentation by **Wally Goddard**, CFLE, University of Arkansas and **Charles Smith**, Kansas State University. They provided a wonderful show and tell of creative and effective methods for presenting family life education. If you weren't able to attend consider purchasing the audio session. http://www.ncfr.org/pdf/conf/2008_Audio_Video_Order_Form.pdf

Each year I return from the NCFR Conference exhausted but rejuvenated. It is an honor to be able to work with so many inspiring, dedicated family professionals. I look forward to continuing our efforts to promote family life education and strengthen families throughout the coming year! ■

ANNUAL CONFERENCE *continued from page 9*

Complex Families, arguing that contemporary adoption requires that we expand our definition of family, and also necessitates developing theories and methods that will allow us to conduct credible research. **Dr. Leslie Hollingsworth**, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan, will speak on *Shared Fate in Contemporary Multicultural Adoption Context*, including her work on embryo adoption. **Dr. Sarah Dorow**, Assistant Professor of Social Structure and Social Policy in the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta, will speak on *Transnational Adoption*, with particular attention to Chinese-U.S. adoptions.

We have special sessions and workshops planned on topics including: military families (Drs. Gary Bowen, Shelly MacDermid, and Dennis Orthner); aging and kinship (Drs. Tammy Henderson and Bernhard Nauck); impact of HIV/AIDS on families around the globe (Dr. Cynthia Gomez); religious diversity and family life (Dr. Mary Ann Hollinger); same-sex marriage in the U.S. and Canada (Drs. Gary Gates and Hilary Rose); New Zealand families (Dr. Jan Pryor); sexuality issues; best practices in family life education; and attachment. Following the special session on attachment on Saturday, we are planning a post-conference workshop on emotion-focused family therapy for the therapists among us.

A variety of other events are still being developed. For instance, a pre-conference tour is being planned to highlight the Asian immigrant experience within the United States, visiting sites in and around our San Francisco location. In order to capitalize on the opportunity to further explore San Francisco, we're planning to end sessions early on Thursday to allow participants much of the day to adventure downtown together. Stay tuned to the NCFR website, the NCFR Report, and Zippy News for updates. Everything you need to know about the conference program, registration, lodging and more is located at: <http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/annual.asp>.

Finally, we would like to use the conference for a special activity—an opportunity to honor all of our mentors. Many, if not most, of us would acknowledge that our educational and professional journeys have been enriched or made possible because of the caring nurture of a mentor. I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to

recognize your mentor. Just a few minutes prior to the beginning of each plenary, we will be featuring a PowerPoint slideshow of the mentors of individual NCFR members. You are invited to send photos and brief tributes for this event. To participate, these are the specifications:

- To be eligible, either you or your mentor must be an NCFR member, OR one of you must be a conference attendee.
- Each participant may honor just one mentor.
- You may send in one photo of you and your mentor together in the same photograph; or you may send in a separate photo for each. The photos must be digital/electronic and of high resolution (min 300 dpi). Send them by email attachment: not embedded in an email.

- You may also include a short message about your mentor to be added onto the slide. In order for the message to be visible on a large auditorium screen, please limit this message to a maximum of 12 words.
- Finally, we must have an email directly from the mentor giving us permission to offer this tribute to him or her, except, of course, if your mentor is deceased.
- Send your submission with “honoring my mentor” in the subject line of your email. The deadline is August 31, 2009. Please direct all submissions and questions to my colleague Nancy Gonzalez at NCFR Central; nancygonzalez@ncfr.org.

You won't want to miss this conference, so I hope you'll mark November 11-14 on your calendar now. See you in San Francisco! ■

Michael Fleming's New Shirt

by Charles Cheesebrough, Director of Membership and Marketing,
charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org

William Michael (Michael) Fleming has a new NCFR shirt. He deserves it.

Fleming, an associate professor at the University of Northern Iowa, always wears his NCFR shirt on the day his Family Life Education students give their senior project presentations. “I wear the shirt as a last reminder to them about NCFR and the CFLE certification,” he told NCFR Executive Director Diane Cushman in an email in December. “I often wear this shirt when I'm out in the community to help promote NCFR,” continued the CFLE Advisory Board member.

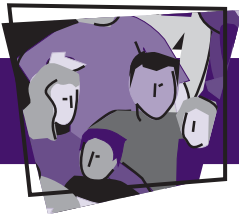
His shirt is now “out of date,” Fleming noted, with the introduction of the organization's new logo so he wanted to “put in the plug” to make new ones available.

“I had to pass the story along to staff,” says Cushman. “It warmed my heart.” Her suggestion that Fleming get a free shirt didn't have to wait for a screen-print order. An anonymous staff member tapped



a long-suppressed penchant for design and embroidery and came up with a one-of-a-kind golf shirt with a handmade logo—in a weekend.

Michael—NCFR staff appreciates our “booster” in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Keep up the good work—and wear your new shirt as often as possible! ■



Section News

News from the International Section

by Catherine Solheim, Chair, csolheim@umn.edu

Thanks to all who participated in the NCFR Annual Conference in Little Rock last November. I was impressed with the excellent presentations by International Section members. The special session on international teaching and research opportunities for students and faculty was well-attended. I heard many remarks about how informative that session was. I plan to follow-up with presenters to request their materials be shared on our NCFR International Section webpage.

The pre-conference experience at Heifer International was also excellent. The group got a good sense of its mission and enjoyed “traveling” to South America, Africa and Southeast Asia at the Heifer Ranch. I encourage you to check out their website (www.heifer.org) to learn more about their programs across the world, including several in the United States. If anyone is willing to lead next year’s International Section pre-conference experience in San Francisco, please let me know.

Thanks to all of you who attended the Section business meeting on Friday evening. We were delighted to hear from the 2008 Jan Trost Award recipient, Professor Katsuko Makino, Ochanomizu University, Japan. As many of you know, Jan Trost, in whose honor this award is presented, is one of the founders of NCFR’s International Section and is a leader in comparative family studies and international scholarship. Professor Makino’s career is rich with significant contributions to the family science field. Her book, *Child Development and Fathers’ Roles*, is the first scholarly book ever published in Japan on fatherhood. She has authored 43 articles, 19 reports, and 11 encyclopedia entries. She has edited 11 books and translated three others. Professor Makino has also served in key leadership roles related to family and home education. As one of her nominators wrote, “In every aspect of her research, educational and professional career, Professor Makino is a true international scholar. Her contributions to research, education, and policymaking

at both the international and national levels are outstanding.” Congratulations to Professor Katsuko Makino for receiving this prestigious NCFR award!

Several members also shared information about conferences of interest to International Section members. One for which abstracts are now being considered is the Pan-African Family Strength International Conference in Africa, August 3-6, 2010 in Kenya. Please visit www.ku.ac.ke/pdfs/pan_african_family.pdf for more information and instructions for abstract submissions. If members have other opportunities you would like to share with colleagues, please feel free to post the information to our listserv: international_list@listmanager.ncfr.org.

We ended our business meeting with small group discussions led by members who had led learning abroad experiences. Five models were presented and lively discussion ensued. Our goal was to encourage collaboration on experiences like these in the future; we will explore ways that this Section might facilitate those connections.

By the time you read this, we will be in the midst of reviewing abstract submissions for the Annual Conference in San Francisco.

By the time you read this, we will be in the midst of reviewing abstract submissions for the Annual Conference in San Francisco.



NCFR Members Visit Heifer International

Program Chair Raeann Hamon and Section Chairs are working hard to create a dynamic conference in a fantastic city. The conference schedule will be adjusted to allow members to take advantage of San Francisco sight-seeing. I encourage you to begin right now to make plans to attend. As always, your input and ideas are welcome.

I look forward to seeing many of you in San Francisco. Please use our email list to communicate with one another throughout the year: international_list@listmanager.ncfr.org. Happy Spring!

Section Officers are: Paul Schvaneveldt, Chair-elect (pschvaneveldt@weber.edu); Shi-Ruei Sherry Fang, Secretary-Treasurer (ssfang@niu.edu); Bethany Willis Hepp (bwillis@UDel.Edu); Catherine Solheim (csolheim@umn.edu) ■

Federally-developed Fatherhood Program Resources Available

The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has developed a family and fatherhood program evaluation portfolio including recent publications. It has published an implementation report of the programs participating in the Building Strong Families demonstration; the evaluation is assessing the effectiveness of marriage education programs for low-income, unmarried parents. Also, three reports describe efforts to create healthy marriage education programs in cooperation with Child Support Enforcement programs in Idaho and in Michigan and in Illinois, Massachusetts, and Florida. Additionally, in 2006, ACF funded three, five-year Responsible Fatherhood Research Grants in 2006. Details on these reports and projects may be found at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/>. ■



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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-

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Family Therapy Section News

by Jeffry H. Larson, FT Section Chair, Jeffry_larson@byu.edu

The 2008 meeting in Little Rock was a great success for the Family Therapy Section! Highlights included a workshop by Dr. Kenneth Hardy of Drexel University on “Oppression: Family Therapist/Practitioner Awareness and Sensitivity” and several paper and poster sessions with increased involvement of graduate students.

Ryan Seedall of Michigan State University won the Best Paper by a Student Award (\$500). The title of his paper was: “An Attachment Primer: Research and Clinical Implications for Couple Therapists.” Jennifer Patterson of Oklahoma State University won the Best Poster by a Student Award (\$125 award). Her title was “Nonverbal Behavioral Indicators of Negative Affect.” Colleen M. Peterson (UNLV) completed her term as Chair of the Section and now serves as Past Chair for two years. Jeffry H. Larson (BYU) is now Chair for 2008-2010 with Thomas Blume as Chair-Elect, Shayne Anderson as Secretary/Treasurer, and J. Tekulve Martial-Vann as Student/New Professional Representative. Liaison Representative is Cody Hollist, and the Nominating Committee for 2009 consists of Adrian Blow, Megan Murphy, and Brandon Silverthorn.

NCFR has streamlined and standardized all Section officers now, so after 2009 there will no longer be an elected Nominating Committee and a Liaison. In the future, the Nominating Committee will consist of the Past Chair, S/NP Representative and a Section member appointed by the Chair. The current elected Nominating Committee will provide a slate for the 2010 Section elections, however, after that, the new Nominating Committee format will be in effect.

The Section voted to create a new award for family therapy supervisors/mentors to honor the late Dr. Kathleen Briggs, former chair of the Family Therapy Section and a tireless leader in both the NCFR and AAMFT. The Kathleen Briggs’ Memorial Award Fund is being set up at NCFR (with the target endowment base \$10,000 to fund a \$500 annual award). The plan is to present the award each year, in conjunction with the NCFR Conference. To contribute to this fund, simply write/send a check to NCFR with “Kathleen Briggs Fund” in the memo portion of the check. You may also donate online on the NCFR website by clicking on the “Give Direct” button. Be sure to specify in the “comment” area that you are designating the funds for the Briggs Fund. You may contact Colleen Peterson for more information (colleen.peterson@unlv.edu).

The Family Therapy Section experienced a 19% increase in membership this past year. We are now the 4th largest Section (of 10). Please encourage your colleagues to join our Section; membership is now free for Sections.

The 2009 meeting is in beautiful San Francisco, CA at the Hilton-Airport hotel! The theme is: Families in a Multicultural World. All of the information about the conference is on the NCFR website at www.ncfr.org. Let’s be more connected as a Section! You can go to our listserv at <http://www.ncfr.org/member/sections.asp> and communicate with the entire Section! Send job announcements, ask questions appropriate for the Section to consider, suggest ideas for the next annual conference, or email me directly at: jeffry_larson@byu.edu. ■

Announcing a Special 30th Year Anniversary Celebration of the Ethnic Minorities Section in San Francisco

by Curtis Fox, Ph.D., Chair EM Section, cafox936@aol.com



The Ethnic Minorities Section was previously organized as an informal group and later became the Black Caucus. The Ethnic Minorities (EM) Section of the National Council on Family Relations formally became a Section in 1979. To date, this Section remains a very viable and vibrant Section of NCFR while experiencing change and continuity.

Over the years, the EM Section has been a voice of reason, conscience, and goodwill in the organization, and to the academe and community through its sterling efforts. Some remember the earlier years when issues of integration and inclusion were overtly turbulent and discomforting. Others may remember NCFR's annual conference of 1986. It was in Dearborn, Michigan, when the realities of race and class were called to the forefront and some members experienced the worst of the prevailing social milieu. Some researchers remembered the years when it was very necessary to monitor and revise scholarship through the experiences of people of color. We have come a long way; yet, there are numerous opportunities to advance the scholarship, instruction, and service about and on people of diverse backgrounds. The journey toward valuing the scholarship written by and about people of color remains fruitful and a road less travelled. Our understanding and valuing diversity remains a viable place for growth. Also, these issues remain at the core of the EM Section's existence and mission.

Formally, the EM Section will be 30 years old when we meet in San Francisco, California! That time offers us a great opportunity to celebrate its life and successes. Perhaps it will do us well to pause and remember the diligent works of scholarship and service of its members. Perhaps we might observe that this Section is not just for a few who may brand themselves as people of color, people from diverse social addresses. The EM Section is a Section that serves all for it helps to engage in conversations that are crucial toward

educating and informing an increasingly diverse nation and world. By the November 2009 Conference, we may pause to witness history; history that includes being under the leadership of our nation's first African-American president, just as we witnessed NCFR's first African American president in 1993. We will celebrate the numerous accomplishments of and opportunities of

growth faced by this Section. We wish to invite the whole association to pause in reflection and celebration. We invite all to volunteer and make suggestions that will enhance this celebration and invigorate us. We are working diligently to have some presentations that will help us to mark our celebrations. We are looking forward to seeing you all there. ■

Feminism and Family Studies Section News: Report from the GLBTSA Focus Group

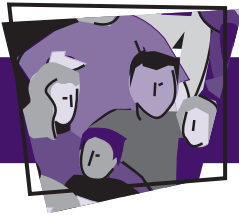
by Jenifer K. McGuire, jkmcguire@wsu.edu

The Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Straight Alliance (GLBTSA) focus group meets annually with the following goals:

- To coordinate research proposals focusing on sexual minorities
- To network with other GLBT and allied family researchers
- To improve the involvement and representation of sexual minorities within NCFR
- To provide a safe haven, mentoring, and social support for GLBT researchers and students

This year, the GLBTSA focus group developed several preliminary proposals for next year's conference in San Francisco. The focus of the discussion included incorporating sexual minority studies into what are often more traditional family research areas. To that end several proposal ideas were developed including an exploration of same sex marriage as public policy, studies of religiosity and relationships with religious institutions among sexual minorities, and specific issues faced in clinical work with sexual minority populations. By highlighting elements of our research that intersect with other interest groups at NCFR (for example policy, religion and mental health) we hope to extend the scope of our collaborations within the organization. For members who are interested in family issues that may have special significance for sexual minorities, the GLBTSA focus group may provide networking and collaborative opportunities.

The GLBTSA focus group provides an additional benefit to sexual minority and allied members of NCFR who may be interested in networking even if their research or practice interest areas are not focused on sexual minorities. The group is typically well-attended by both junior and senior members of NCFR, which provides opportunities to seek mentorship and collaboration in professional development. Some issues that may be especially significant to sexual minority professionals include coming-out at work, experiences of discrimination, and inclusive health insurance policies. The social network created by the GLBTSA allows for continued mentoring and support for the professional development of new colleagues. ■



Association of Councils

Association of Councils News

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

The Association of Councils (AOC) was busy at the NCFR Annual Conference in Little Rock. We began with our annual workshop on Wednesday morning. Marcie Brooke started the workshop with an interesting session entitled, *The Nuts and Bolts of Leadership*. Marcie challenged all of the state and student affiliates to become as effective as possible through the work of dedicated leaders.

The next session was *You Can Do It! Preparing and Submitting a Proposal for the NCFR Annual Conference*. This was led by Marilyn Flick, Lynette Olson and Cindy Winter. Attendees were given simplified steps involved in getting a presentation selected for the annual NCFR Conference.

The final part of the workshop was *The Amazing Internet—From Websites to Virtual Worlds: Using Emerging Technologies to*

Connect with Members and Achieve Your Goals. Donna Davis was the presenter for this session. Participants were exposed to many new and exciting aspects of technology and were shown how to use them.

On Thursday morning the AOC Board joined with other representatives from state and student affiliates in a discussion with the NCFR President, Dr. Maxine Hammond-Smith and the NCFR Executive Director, Diane Cushman to discuss how affiliates could grow and new affiliates could begin. It was a lively and productive session.

Friday began with the annual Student Affiliate Representative/Advisor Breakfast. At this session Drs. Lane Powell and Sharon Powell discussed their experiences with student affiliates. They also shared their ideas and suggestions to help student affiliates. Also, at this meeting, Dr. Chloe Merrill introduced the concept of a new NCFR Honors Society for student members of NCFR. The students were very excited about this new program.

Following all of these productive meetings, the AOC Board met with Lynda Bessey and Charles Cheesebrough, NCFR staff members who relate to the affiliates, to discuss the future of the AOC, both state and student affiliates. The entire group of officers expressed a concern for helping new affiliates begin and to provide any needed assistance for existing affiliates. From this meeting, plans began to take shape for an AOC Board retreat in January. In the next issue of *NCFR Report*, I will share with you the results of that retreat.

I would ask each of you who have needs for your affiliate or suggestions in how the AOC Board could be of service to you to email me. I can assure you that I will answer you and pass on any information to the Board. All of the Board members have a desire to serve the membership of the AOC. Finally, I would like to introduce our newest Board member, Amanda Williams. Amanda is the new Student/New Professional member of the Board. We welcome her input. ■

Minnesota Council on Family Relations News



by Betty Cooke, MCFR President, Cooke047@umn.edu

The Minnesota Council on Family Relations Spring Conference on April 4, 2008 on *Nature, Children and Families: A Necessary Connection* was co-sponsored with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and held there. Morning speakers were Marti Erickson, Andrea Faber Taylor and Nancy Rosenow, and a wide choice of breakout sessions were available in the afternoon.

The Fall Conference was held on Thursday, December 4, 2008 on *Contemporary Families – Formation, Function and the Future* at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center in St. Paul. Nationally known expert, Stephanie Coontz, was the keynote speaker, and there were a broad array of breakout sessions. The upcoming MCFR Spring Conference will be held on Friday, April 3, 2009 on *The Intersection of Family and Health* at the new Wilder Center in St. Paul.

Heather Cline took on leadership of the MCFR Student Section in 2008 with the continued support of past chair, Kristin Schneider Dillon. The Student Section held two membership social events, continue with their student blog and have an active listserv. Through a survey to member professionals and students, they have

established a mentorship program matching professionals with students to promote engagement between current and future professionals focused on families. The Student Section has also initiated a Student Poster Session at the fall conference, which provides students with an opportunity to present their research or practitioner-focused work.

For the first time the MCFR nominated one of our student members, Sara Lassig, for the NCFR Association of Councils Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper Award for her dissertation on *Saying Goodbye During a Terminal Illness: Retrospective Reflections of Meaning from Surviving Family Members*. Sara was selected to receive this award, which was presented to her along with \$500 at the NCFR Annual Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Two other awards were conferred: the MCFR Ruth Hathaway Jewson Distinguished Service to Families Award, given to a professional in the family field who is recognized for outstanding work on behalf of families, was presented to Peg Lindlof at the fall conference. The Friend of the Family Award, given to a professional or organization that may or may not be in the

Minnesota Council continued on page 16

Technological Innovations at NCFR

by Jason Samuels, NCFR Manager of Information Technology, jasonsamuels@ncfr.org

At NCFR Central, 2008 has been a busy year, technology-wise. Among many innovations, perhaps the one that's given us the most insight has been the implementation of Google Analytics tracking on our website. We now know that from the time we implemented the tracking code on April 10 through the end of the year, ncfr.org had 68,000 visitors from 167 countries, seeing almost 300,000 pages in over 100,000 visits. On top of this, over 4,000 visitors have seen more than

10,000 pages on our Community Portal at community.ncfr.org. Beyond just the overall numbers is a granular dataset that gives us extraordinary insights into where our web traffic comes from, and what people who visit us are looking for.

This has also been a year where NCFR has ventured into the realm of Web 2.0 and social media. The NCFR Facebook Page launched earlier in the year (www.facebook.com/pages/NCFR/

18069103276) has steadily grown to over 500 fans, and more recently we've established an official presence on Twitter, a micro-blogging service, at twitter.com/ncfr. For the NCFR Annual Conference this year, an Activator website on the Community Portal was used to engage students and first-time attendees: community.ncfr.org/activator. At the conference, Twitter and the photo-sharing site Flickr were used to conduct an "ncfr08 Social Media Experiment." To see the content that people contributed with the tag "ncfr08" see <http://search.twitter.com/search?q=ncfr08> and <http://flickr.com/search/?q=ncfr08>. And after the conference, presenters were invited to share their slides and handouts on a document library posted at <http://community.ncfr.org/ncfr08>.

As we go into 2009 the innovations of the previous year give us momentum to tackle new challenges. In my column in the September *NCFR Report* I mentioned the implementation of a new database and member's section of the NCFR website as major upgrades slated for the coming year. Purchasing the software necessary for this is currently on hold, but the project is still scheduled to begin in 2009. We are actively exploring ways to implement upgrades that we can build in-house in the interim, and look forward to reaching out for your feedback as we plan for new and better ways to serve you. We are striving to provide better member services through better online content. ■

News from the Illinois Council on Family Relations

by Deborah Gentry, Ed.D., deborah.gentry@heartland.edu

The Illinois Council on Family Relations has a long history. It is among the first state affiliates of NCFR to be established. Each year, the organization sponsors a conference. In 2009, the conference will be held on Friday, April 3rd in Normal, Illinois, in conference facilities located in the new Alumni Center on the campus of Illinois State University.

The theme for this year's conference is *Our Children, our Elders*. Details about the conference can be found on the organization's website: www.ilcfr.org. Topics addressed will include balancing work and family; enhancing intergenerational communication; joys and challenges of parenting across the lifespan; intergenerational public policies and practices; sharing resources across the generations; intergenerational family life education; and traditions and rituals that strengthen family ties. In keeping with this theme, the keynote speaker will be Joseph H. Pleck, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Illinois. His presentation is entitled *Fathering: What we Know and don't Know*.

The registration form for the conference can be found on the ICFR website, as can information about site location and lodging. The early bird registration deadline is March 20, 2009. ■

AOC's Outstanding Student Research Paper Award Deadline is April 15

NCFR affiliate councils are strongly encouraged to submit student research papers to be considered for the Association of Councils' Outstanding Student Research Paper Award. There are two awards, one for a graduate student paper and one for an undergraduate student paper. In order to qualify, students must be the sole or primary author of the submitted work.

Graduate students must be members of NCFR and will be expected to present their paper at this year's NCFR conference in San Francisco. The graduate student

paper winner will receive \$500 and the undergraduate student paper winner will receive \$100. All papers submitted will be judged on the following criteria:

- Uniqueness of research question
- The degree to which findings contribute to the field
- Clarity of writing
- Good application of family theory
- Comprehensive literature review, building upon previous work
- Sound research methodology
- Application for practitioners and/or promotion of further research

It is required that submissions come from NCFR affiliated councils. Affiliated councils should choose one graduate paper and one undergraduate paper for submission.

Submissions should be emailed to Amanda Williams at amanda.williams10@okstate.edu by April 15, 2009. Submission materials should include the paper and a cover letter containing the student's name, address, phone number, and email address as well as the student's academic standing (undergraduate or graduate level), university attended, and state council affiliation. ■

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family field but that has made significant contributions to the quality of family life in Minnesota, was presented to The McKnight Foundation.

Communication vehicles for the MCFR continue to be the website at www.mcfr.net managed by Rose Allen with plans for Pa Nhia Yang to take this on soon. The member listserv is at mcfr@lists.umn.edu (also managed by Rose Allen) and the electronic newsletter *Family Forum*, under the leadership of Editor Ron Pitzer. There are many new technologies we are using to reach our membership. Visit this website for more information.

Our current membership consists of 109 Regular Members, 179 Affiliate Members (also NCFR Members) and 28 Student Members for a total of 316. Our officer leadership for 2009 includes Rose Allen, president; Beth Yokom, president-elect; Betty Cooke, past president, Mary Maher, secretary, and Kristin Schneider Dillon, treasurer. Newly elected board members are: Bill Allen, Michael P. Brown, Patricia Crumley, Nancy Melquist, Monica Potter and Leeann Sponsel. Returning board members include: Ada Alden, Marcie Brooke, Carolyn Carr Latady, Heather Cline, Mary Jo Czaplewski, Tammy Dunrud, Sara Lassig, Peg Lindlof, Sue Meyers, Ron Pitzer, Minnell Tralle and Pa Nhia Yang. A special thanks to those who are leaving the board this year – Madge Alberts and

Jackie Mosqueda. It is also important to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our Executive Administrator, Linda Vukelich, to the MCFR Board.

More information is available on our web-site about our policy efforts, our governance information, financial reports, and student conference scholarships.

The MCFR has a strong relationship with the National Council on Family Relations through active involvement with the Association of Councils (AOC). During 2008 Marcie Brooke has served as past president of the AOC and Ada Alden was the Program Chair for the AOC Leadership Workshop at the NCFR conference in Little Rock in November. They will continue to serve on the Executive Board of the AOC in 2009. Several MCFR members attended NCFR in Little Rock in November where the new institutional identity for NCFR was announced and unveiled. You will see the new logo in evidence in their publications and other products. NCFR plans to focus attention on affiliates including MCFR in 2009.

Glen Palm, Ada Alden and Betty Cooke are updating the booklet entitled *Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Educators*. It is in the process of being refined in order to be used more formally as ethical guidelines for the NCFR Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation. MCFR will continue to work with NCFR in planning how the new edition of this document will be published, distributed and used by both organizations. ■



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