

In this issue:

Family Focus on Cohabitation

pages F1 – F16

The majority of couples who eventually marry now cohabit before marriage. In addition, more older couples are entering into these relationships. There is also a form of “cohabitation” in which couples continue to maintain two households—”Living Together Apart.” In this Issue of *Report*, your colleagues share their research—and one personal story—about aspects of cohabitation.

next issue:

Immigration / Migration

The Fall 2009 issue of *NCFR Report* will be on the topic of Immigration/migration. Submissions on this topic from theory, research, policy, practice and other perspectives are welcome.

To request submission guidelines, contact Editor Nancy Gonzalez at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org. Deadline is June 21, 2009.



Make plans now to attend the NCFR 2009 Conference in San Francisco, November 11 – 14. The Bay Area offers everything you could want in art and culture, history, sightseeing and more. This conference is especially convenient and affordable, including free local transportation from the hotel and room rates of just \$139. For complete information, go to www.ncfr.org and follow the link to the conference pages!

Ronald Sabatelli named editor of *Family Relations*

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) has appointed Professor Ronald Sabatelli, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, as editor of the NCFR journal *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*.

Dr. Sabatelli, Professor and Department Head of Human Development and Family Studies, is a 32-year member of NCFR. He begins his duties this year as he sets up the Family Relations editorial office at the university and begins to accept manuscripts for the 2010 volume of the journal.

NCFR President Maxine Hammonds-Smith praised the choice. “It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to extend congratulations to Ronald Sabatelli for accepting the editorship of *Family Relations*. With

Ron’s commitment and service to NCFR and his dedication to the profession, we are confident that he will maintain the high quality of our world class journal. We are tipping our hats to Dr. Sabatelli,” she said.

Hammonds-Smith also commended the work of current editor Joyce Arditti, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Human Development at Virginia Tech. “We thank Joyce for her strong leadership in maintaining the high standards we have for our journals,” the President said. Dr. Arditti’s five-year term runs through the December 2009 issue. ■



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

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

Editor, NCFR Report: Nancy Gonzalez

Editorial Assistants: Charles Cheesebrough, Jason Samuels

Adviser: David Bredehoft

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.**

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 each of the quarterly issues are: Spring issue—deadline December 21, Summer issue—March 21, Fall issue—June 21 and the Winter issue—deadline September 21. Send submissions to: Nancy Gonzalez at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org. For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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One copy of any portion of this publication can be made for personal use. Additional reprints of this publication are available by contacting NCFR headquarters at the address above.

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NCFR 2009 election results

The following NCFR members were elected to serve in offices of the National Council on Family Relations beginning in November 2009. Congratulations go out to all of these dedicated members.

The new Board President-Elect 2009-2011 (President 2011-2013) is:

Elaine A. Anderson, Ph.D., Professor of Family Science, University of Maryland. Elaine was awarded NCFR Fellow status in 2000. Elaine has



served NCFR in many areas: Chair and Chair-elect, NCFR Conference Program; Editorial Board, *Family Relations*; Chair of Public Policy Committee; Vice President for Public Policy; Fellows Committee; Search Committee for the NCFR Executive Director; Publicity Co-chair, NCFR annual meeting. She has also been very active in several NCFR Sections: Chair, Family Policy Section; Vice Chair, Family Action Section; Reviewer for Feminism and Family Studies Section and Family Policy Section; Chair, Family Policy Section 35 year celebration; and Co-editor of Family Policy Section *Teaching Family Policy Curriculum* book.

Elaine states, "NCFR is my primary professional organization; and I am deeply honored to be nominated for President-elect of the NCFR. It is important to strengthen the pres-

ence of NCFR within social science coalitions where our voices could provide professional and policy input. I would like to develop broader partnerships with other organizations regarding leadership, research, and policy initiatives. I want to work specifically with students and new professionals to develop organizational initiatives that will transform and sustain us in the 21st century, continuing to focus on the diversity of the organizations' membership, utilizing new technologies, and addressing generational concerns."

The new Association of Councils President-Elect for 2009-2011 is:



Minnell L. Tralle, M.Ed., Program Leader for Family Relations, University of Minnesota Extension. Minnell is a member of the Education and Enrichment Section

and Affiliated Councils, serving as President, Secretary, and Conference Planning Co-Chair. Minnell states, "Since it was my involvement in one of the Affiliate Councils (Minnesota Council on Family Relations) that has brought me to NCFR and in the position of being on the ballot, I would like to encourage NCFR members to be involved in their local affiliate where they exist, and start new affiliates where they don't exist. Affiliates can bring quality professional development, networking and support for students to the local level. As AOC President-Elect, I would

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NCFR Report - A member forum

The *NCFR Report* is a quarterly magazine for members designed to encourage member-to-member dialogue, to inform colleagues about our research and to discuss research application for practitioners and policy professionals. Through the *NCFR Report*, NCFR also builds our community by reporting on people, events and organizational news.

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

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



Come and toot your horn in San Francisco . . . it's a family affair

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

By the time you read this article, it will be summer and hopefully you are enjoying the transition season and have decided to participate in the 2009 Conference. Maybe it is still time for you to include NCFR as you plan your family vacation if the summer is too busy for you. Think about a nice fall vacation and join us at our 71st Annual Conference in San Francisco, California. Make this year's conference a family affair.

I hope this will be the annual conference at which you will toot your horn and let us know what you have been doing to promote the field of Family Science/Family Relations. Members are doing such a wonderful job; we want to acknowledge our achievers in the family science field and what better time and place to toot our horns than at our 2009 Conference.

What have you been doing?

Participating in an organization such as NCFR demonstrates an act of professional loyalty and can be viewed as a giving and receiving act. As members we give freely of our resources (time, energy, money, etc) and in return, we gain so much from interacting with one another via networking, collaborating and producing valuable outcomes, in part to accomplish the mission and goals of NCFR. We want to continue to hear about the contributions that our members are making in the family relations area. We want to acknowledge members at the annual conference to let you know that you are important to the organization and are appreciated.

Our long-time loyal members

Members have been rooted in the organization for a long time; many have maintained their membership for 25 or more uninterrupted years. We truly value you and we want to know; what is it about this organization that stimulates you to maintain your membership over the years?

We believe that NCFR is the type of organization that distinguishes itself as "one" that all family professionals want to be associated with. We have seen demonstrations of that

through informal mentorship efforts of students and new professionals. Some members participate in the conference every year "just because." They come whether or not their organizations support them financially; these members pay-out-of the pocket to support and show loyalty to NCFR. Some of these members are retired and still want to continue to make a contribution and mentor future leaders in the field.

Over the years members have and still do encourage students to participate in the conference and join as student members. We might not have a formal recognized "mentor-mentee" program, but it truly happens at NCFR Conferences.

Who mentored you in NCFR?

It will be very interesting to learn how our members were introduced into the organization. For example; when did they first become members? How long have they been members? Also, it will be equally interesting to learn; when did they first participate in an NCFR Conference and what was their experience at the conference? At the same time we want to know what makes members keep participating in NCFR's Annual Conference year after year.

Some members learned about the National Council on Family Relations via their local Affiliate Council and served in leadership positions at that level. Our affiliates have done an outstanding job in peer-mentoring into NCFR, and we want to hear how they have been successful in this effort.

Many members came into the organization as students via their major professors. As we move toward acknowledging members, we want to know a little information that includes the mentor's name and a short story or a tribute about your experience. For example, (1) was the person who served or serves as your major professor your mentor or role model that you see when you attend the conference?; (2) share why you think you were chosen by your major professor to join



I would like to share some of NCFR's mentoring stories at my presentation at the annual conference. Would you be willing to send me your story? Please send it to me at: maxinehammonds@NuMeWellness.com .

the organization as a student (3) were you involved in a research project that was shared at the conference?, and (4) how long was or has the mentor relationship lasted?

Growing into the organization

As professionals we understand and know that we can't make it alone if we want to grow and develop in our field; this is equally important as we move into leadership positions. No member makes it alone, it is so important that we have a role model or mentor to assist us on our professional journey. We want to hear about these relationships and acknowledge and learn more about the relationship. Many members who are in leadership roles are viewed as mentors and might not be aware of it, but someone somewhere looks up to them.

Some members identify with influential role models during the conference to help them learn, understand and operationalize our mission and out of professional friendship, these members look forward to the annual conference to share and challenge each other professionally. Because of the diversity of our members, it helps to have that member role model relationship to build our self-reliance so that we can find our place in the organization. That could be one reason some members keep their long commitment to NCFR. Some members maintain that friendship spirit while continuing to grow and develop in their professional field in other settings. During the conference, we

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NCFR Honor Student Recognition Awards

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) wishes to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments and academic success of family science students.

The following students have received the NCFR Honor Student Recognition Award. (December 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009)

Andrews University

Yerusi Fajardo

Messiah College

Jonathan D. Bert

Laura E. Chrisfield

Amy L. Cliver

Sarah K. Goedeke

Vikki C. Kieffer

Margeaux A. Monsour

Mandy A. Smith

Rebecca E. Tiller

Jessica Vanasdale

Amber M. Wenger

Samford University

Jessica L. Garnett

Morgan A. Glasscock

Logan D. Lowrey

Jessica L. Nix

Stephanie Shoemaker

University of Central Oklahoma

ShaLyn K. Cottingham

Jessica Delacerda

Michelle Renee King

Danielle Ashley Weatherholtz

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Sarah E. Siegel

University of Wisconsin – Stout

Stacy L. Eberle

Misty Malott

Amanda McCain

Weber State University

McKenzie M. Beus

Katherine Bevan

Tiffany Goff Neilsen

Ashlynn H. Oborn

Bradi Petersen

Camron Shekarforoosh

Lauren G.B. Stratton

Mathew F. Stringham

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strive to keep communications flowing between the Board, the AOC and the Affiliates and continue to encourage a strong interchange of ideas between Affiliates.”

The new Annual Conference

Program Chair-Elect for 2009-2010 is:



Leonor Boulton Johnson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Family Studies in African and African American Studies, Arizona State University. Leonor's over 30 years of NCFR participation

includes: Local Arrangements Co-Chair for 2005 Annual Conference; Family Policy Section Chair and Vice Chair; Ethnic Minorities (EM) Chair and Vice Chair; NCFR Board Member; Elections Council Co-chair; Co-founder of NCFR Leadership Institute; Associate Editor of *Family Relations*; Editor of EM Newsletter; Marie Peters Award recipient; Member of nine of 10 Sections; Member of Reuben Hill Award Committee; Affirmative Action Committee; Nominations Committee; Publications Committee; Membership Committee; Marie Peters Award Committee; and the Distinguished Service to Families Award Committee.

Leonor states, “My research focus on gender, ethnic families in cross-cultural perspective, coupled with state and national public policy involvement has sensitized me to external forces that limit or facilitate families’ ability to protect its members. The 2011 conference must empower families as they face economic uncertainty and challenges to

their pursuit of happiness in a complex global society. Guided by the conference theme, “*Building A Family-Centered Economy*,” my goal is to partner with Section Chairs in providing stimulating speakers and forums that transform theory and research into practical applications for families facing challenges to their health, shelter, work, and values.”

National Elections Council members elected to three-year terms (2009-2012) are:

Sandra J. Bailey, Ph.D., CFLE, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, Montana State University and

Estella A. Martinez, Ph.D. Associate Professor Emerita, Family Studies at the University of New Mexico

National Fellows Committee members elected to 3-year terms (2009-2012) are:

Frank Fincham, Ph.D., Eminent Scholar and Director, Florida State University Family Institute, Florida State University and

Shirley M.H. Hanson, RN, Ph.D., CFLE, Professor Emeritus, Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing and

Catherine A. Surra, Ph. D., Director, School of Human Ecology; Professor, Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Texas.

Section Officers Elected for 2009-2011 are: Family Policy Section

Kelly D. Davis, Ph.D., Student/New Professional

Feminism & Family Studies Section

Lisa M. Taylor, Ph.D., Chair; Elizabeth Sharp, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; Dana Berkowitz,

Ph.D. and Lyndal Bee Lian Khaw, M.S., Secretary/Treasurers; Megan Haselschwerdt, B.S. and Russell Toomey, M.A., Student/New Professionals

International Section

Njorge Michael Mbiti, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair-Elect; Miriam Mulsow, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer; Elisabeth F. Maring, Ph.D., Student/New Professional

Religion & Family Life Section

Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair-Elect; Loren Marks, Ph.D. Secretary/Treasurer; Teri M. Henke, M.Ed., Student/New Professional

Research & Theory Section

Thomas B. Holman, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; Christine M. Proulx, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer; Jeffrey P. Dew, Ph.D., Student/New Professional ■

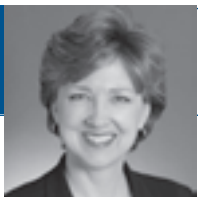
president's report

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share information among ourselves; this form of reciprocity might be another reason why many people show up at the conference year after year.

Summary

We are very excited about the work of our members who put in time, effort and energy adding to the body of knowledge in family science via research, theory, formal and informal education and human services. We appreciate all you do to make NCFR the world-class family professional organization that it is and we want to acknowledge you at the 2009 Annual Conference in San Francisco in November. Join us as we toot horns. ■



The sky's the limit

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

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), by any measure, is a complex organization. The membership is diverse, coming from many disciplines and active in scores of vocational and professional domains. A healthy organization's infrastructure is created or evolves to support the delivery of services to its customers. In our case, we strive to meet the needs of researchers who contribute to our three journals, the members, family life educators and conference attendees. With such a wide range of customer needs, our infrastructure by necessity became multi-layered and cross-functional.

No part of our infrastructure is more difficult to wrap your head around than the Affiliate Councils. Let me explain.

A bit of history

NCFR was first envisioned as an annual national conference, hence its original name, National *Conference* on Family Relations. Since the members met only once a year, the founders of NCFR anticipated that the "Affiliated Councils," with the assistance of the national office, would carry on the work of the organization in between the annual national meetings. They were to do so by creating state and regional committees, which were to hold local meetings during the year; a not so easy task. This was 1938, and members had to communicate via snail mail and face-to-face conversations.

The numbers kept growing. By 1940, the third annual meeting of the National Conference on Family Relations, there were 38

state committees or conferences in existence. There were 28 state affiliates, seven regional affiliates and one county council in Cumberland County, North Carolina.

Explained authors James Walters and Ruth Jewson in *The National Council on Family Relations: A Fifty Year History 1938-1987*, "...it was a struggle over many years on just how to establish, maintain, and develop ties with regions and states...."

Something had to be done. At the business meeting of the 1967 NCFR Annual Conference, members passed a motion to create a committee to define "Affiliated" groups, develop a structure, standards and guidelines for their operations. We know that whatever support was provided by "National" to the Affiliated Councils must have been helpful because by 1984 there were 52 Affiliated Councils, 41 of which were state and provincial, three regional (multi-state) and eight local.

This is where our historical narrative ends, yet the story of "Affiliated Councils" continues. Although the number of family scientists and family life educators has steadily increased over the years, we've seen a dramatic decline in the number of Affiliated Councils since 1984. As of today we have 11 state, regional and international Affiliate Councils. We aren't certain why the numbers have declined, but we have heard that leadership gets "burned out," and that it's been difficult to manage the membership data and bank account in addition to planning a state conference.

Actions resulting from the 2008 NCFR conference

Thanks to everyone's hard work and thoughtful input at our 2008 conference, we are strengthening our organization in a variety of ways.

An Affiliate Council focus for 2009. What do today's Affiliate Councils need? At the 2008 NCFR annual conference in Little Rock, current NCFR President Maxine Hammonds-Smith invited affiliate council leaders to her hotel suite to share their thoughts. Their

Thank you donors!

NCFR thanks the following persons for their generous donations to the organization.

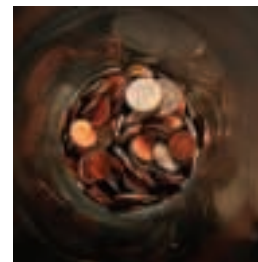
Melvin Adams	John Gonzales	Kimberly Nieves
William Allen	Victor Gonzales	Glen Palm
Duane Alwin	Nancy Gonzalez	Danica Pierce
Paul Amato	Daniel Hanks	Karen Seccombe
Betty Barber	Tammy Henderson	Neulet Sevilleja
Janet Benavente	E. Jeffrey Hill	Anastasia Snyder
Sampson Blair	Jo Ann Hogue	M. Duncan Stanton
Nicole Billmeyer	Leslie Hollingsworth	Sandra Stith
Denise Brandon	Angela Huebner	Willie Oliver
Neil Buono	Carol Kellett	Rob Palkovitz
Kevin Bush	David Klein	B. Kay Pasley
Marsha Carolan	Lawrence Kurdek	Donna Peterson
Teresa Cooney	Linda Ladd	Kathleen Piercy
Monique Diderich	Herbert Laube	Shruti Poulsen
Lionel Dufrene	Larry Leflore	Gerard Rack-Wildner
Aaron Ebata	Ralph La Rossa	Evelyn Rimel
Karen Eskow	Jay Mancini	Ronald Sabatelli
Richard Fafara	Stephen Marks	Emily Schulz
Charles Figley	Thomas McGloshen	Susan Shapiro
Frank Fincham	Peggy Meszaros	Paul Vaughan
Judith Fischer	Brent Miller	Alladi Venkatesh
Nicole Forry	Pamela Monroe	Elvir Viteskic
JRM Gerris	Colleen Murray	Rebecca Ward
	J. Robert Nations	

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America needs Family Resource Management and Family Life Educators

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



I put off taking Economics 101 until my last semester of college because I had convinced myself that it would be difficult and boring. It turned out to be one of my favorite classes. Who knew that studying supply and demand and widgets would be so interesting? While I haven't needed to apply much of the information I learned in that class directly in my career, it has proven helpful in my general understanding of how the economy affects our society and vice versa.

Due to the current U.S. economic situation, I find myself reminiscing about class lectures and watching economic theories and prin-

ciples played out in everyday life. You can almost feel the tension and uncertainty in the air. Personally, I don't know anyone who hasn't put off a major purchase, adjusted their spending and saving habits, or who doesn't feel vulnerable in one way or another. The pressures created through job loss, financial stress and uncertainty overall can play havoc on individual and family life. Layoffs are causing more adult children to move in with their parents, creating crowded living conditions leading to increased stress and conflict. Unemployment can introduce an entirely new dynamic to family relationships.

Unfortunately social service programs are often the first to go when money is tight. Many of you are struggling with unknown futures because of the shaky economy. Layoffs are becoming commonplace and grant funding is being reduced or eliminated. It's ironic that at a time when the services of family professionals are needed more than ever, funding for such programs can be in jeopardy.

Family Resource Management is one of the ten CFLE family life content areas. It includes consideration of consumer and

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discussion provided the impetus for this year's focus on Affiliate Councils.

More descriptive titles for each entity. In January of this year, the Affiliate Council Board (a body that is elected by the presidents of all the Affiliate Councils), convened a two-day strategic planning session. First on the agenda was a review of the terminology in use today to describe various elements of the Affiliate infrastructure. The Board created titles that are descriptive of the make-up and function of each entity. From this point forward, the AOC (collectively the presidents of all the Affiliate Councils) will be called the Affiliate Councils Presidents. The Board that is elected by these officers to represent the Affiliate Councils will be called the Affiliate Councils Board.

Ways to strengthen the operation of state and regional councils. Based on a lengthy discussion pertaining to the challenges of operating state and regional councils, the Affiliate Councils Board has developed a set of goals, strategies and specific actions to strengthen the Affiliate infrastructure and maximize the out-of-the-box templates and services that can be provided by NCFR to all

Affiliate Councils. NCFR staff member Jason Samuels has already worked with three state affiliate councils to move their website to the NCFR server. Other services will be rolled out over the months to come.

Networking encouraged. There is no doubt that the challenge of supporting local affiliates remains today. There is even less doubt that the field of family science is growing and that ongoing networking and professional development is important to those in the field, particularly at the local level for practitioners who are delivering direct services to the public.

In addition to the work of the Affiliate Councils Board, during 2009 members of the NCFR Board of Directors are participating in Affiliate Council conferences and reporting their "learnings" to the NCFR Board. To date, Norma Burgess, Gary Lee, Chloe Merrill, and Maxine Hammonds-Smith have attended meetings in California, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Utah, Texas and Illinois, respectively.

Leadership structure. Other work is underway to develop a leadership structure for the Student Affiliate Councils of which there are 21. Each Student Affiliate Council has a presi-

dent and an adviser, which collectively hold information that could be of significant value to other colleges and universities that are interested in hosting Student Affiliate Councils.

Acquiring the systems to support affiliate membership databases, websites, conference registration and accounting functions is no small task for NCFR. However, the alternative is that each affiliate council creates its own systems and templates, resulting in a far greater amount of time, energy and cost for each council.

New membership database. NCFR's new membership database, which should be active in 2010, will be able to host the membership database of each affiliate council as well as manage registration for local conferences. Ongoing conversations with leadership of local councils and the Affiliate Councils Board will reveal additional ways that the national office can support the work of the local affiliates.

With an ongoing partnership between local affiliates and the national or central office of NCFR, the sky is the limit. If you have questions or comments, please send me a note at dianecushman@ncfr.org. ■

budgeting issues as well as management of other resources including time and energy; all considered within the context of the family system. When using the portfolio process for the CFLE application, **Family Resource Management** was typically one of the weakest content areas for applicants. Even applicants with Social Work degrees were often lacking specific coursework in family resource management.

And as a society we don't seem to place much value on the need to understand personal finance issues. I remember learning in school how to write out a check and balance a checkbook. Unfortunately those types of

classes have been cut along with other family and consumer science topics in recent years.

This may have something to do with the mess we are in. Too many people have lived above their means or lacked the skills needed to make good financial decisions. We've become a society of hyper-consumers focusing on fulfilling our immediate needs at the expense of our future and the future of our children and grandchildren.

I'm frustrated by the brokers who sold mortgages to people without regard to their qualifications, and I'm also disappointed by the people who went ahead and bought houses they knew they couldn't realistically

afford. Of equal if not more concern is the number of people who seem to lack a moral compass. How can so many people be so greedy and selfish? It isn't just a few people out there. There seemed to be a dominant culture in Wall Street and beyond to get as much as you can, as fast as you can, with no thought of what it cost or at whose expense. I often use the term "Some people's kids" and I've thought that many times over the past few months. What's wrong with these people? What need is not being met that allowed so many brokers, bankers, and corporate executives to behave so badly? Being a parent myself, I know you can't hold parents completely accountable for the actions of their children. But many of the values and skills we see lacking in the current economic crisis come from our upbringing. These lessons are taught through the words and actions of our family. How can so many people have missed out on these important lessons?

There is no one cause or solution for the current economic crisis. But for family life educators it provides an opportunity to help society understand the need for our services. A lot of what is happening stems from a lack of basic life skills. Clearly we need to do a better job of teaching individuals and families about consumer and budgeting issues. But we also need to work with families to help them consider their values and how they are articulated and acted upon in daily life. Family life educators have the skills and knowledge to teach many of the concepts that seem to be lacking in today's society. We just need to figure out how to let more people know. ■

Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between November 15 and March 31, 2009

Alabama

Caneeka Miller*

California

William Penick*

Jaesook Gho

Shalita Blake

Martha Chavez*

Colorado

Amy Stephens*

Florida

Denise Grolly-Case

Andrea Meyer

Andrea Pazdera*

Rachel Mincey*

Latoya Jackson*

Georgia

Charlette Deloach

Heidi Stone

Elizabeth Holton*

Iowa

Kelsey Schilling*

Illinois

Kate Connor

Naomi Downing

Kansas

Jeremy Boyle*

Louisiana

Chauna Berry

Liana Deville*

Maryland

Tiffany Sersen*

Michigan

Larissa Frias

Benjie Haynie*

Haley Reed-Rummer*

Brandye Trasky*

Esmeralda Horner*

Sharon Jewell*

Cynthia Churchwell*

Vicki Dandridge*

Elaine Hilliker*

Jamie Knopf*

Lori Wilder*

Minnesota

Janice Hofschulte

Donecia Norwood-Smith*

North Carolina

Jennifer Ritzert*

Nebraska

Danell Will*

Melissa Wamsley*

Amy Widman*

Sarah State*

New Jersey

Christina Dellibovi

Nevada

Angela Mcevers*

Danica Pierce*

Ohio

Heather Costas*

Cynthia Grilliot*

Lindy Mejia*

Kendra Roberts*

Kaitlin Woods*

Tariq Ziyad

Oklahoma

Ellen Martin

Jamie Hernando*

Amber Pryor*

Kent Brown*

Jennifer Butcher*

Oregon

Amee Claire Foster*

Pennsylvania

Michelle McClelland*

Tennessee

Sara Haas*

Rebecca Griffin*

Texas

Carlos Casanova*

Sarah Bernhagen*

Lai Ping Lau*

Vernell Gregg*

Utah

Elizabeth Montoya*

Ashley Walker*

Virginia

John Gruszkos

Charessa Koontz

Wisconsin

Rebecca Mather*

Japan

Naomi Harada*

[* - Provisional]

Resources

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Money Smart Adult Financial Education Curriculum

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/overview.html>

Financial Fitness. It's Priceless. A Public Policy Deliberation Guide – Deb Gentry, Ph.D., CFLE
<http://www.aafcs.org/policy/financialfitnessguide.html>

Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy

<http://www.jumpstartcoalition.org/>

Moore T.J., & Asay, S. M. (2008). *Family resource management*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

United States Cooperative Extension. *Surviving and Thriving in Tough Economic Times*.

http://www.extension.org/pages/Surviving_and_Thriving_in_Difficult_Economic_Times



What better place to be in November 2009 than with NCFR colleagues in San Francisco?

by Raeann R. Hamon, Ph.D., Program Chair, Messiah College rhamon@messiah.edu

The theme of this year's NCFR Conference in San Francisco, "Families in a Multicultural World," lends itself to an exciting array of plenaries, special sessions, symposia, posters, and related activities. Let me share some highlights of the program here. More details about special events (e.g., pre-conference tour of the Asian immigrant experience, post conference workshops) will be available in the next NCFR Report.

Cohabitation is the opening plenary on Wednesday with Dr. Scott Stanley, Research Professor at the University of Denver, addressing **Sliding vs. Deciding**, and Dr. Pamela Smock, Research Professor at the University of Michigan, presenting **What Does Cohabitation Mean and for Whom?**

Dr. Andrew Cherlin, Professor at Johns Hopkins University will be featured in Thursday's plenary entitled **American Merry-Go-Round: Partnership Turnover in U.S. and other Western Countries**.

Adoption is the focus of Friday's plenary, and our esteemed line-up will include: Dr. Harold Grotevant, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, on **New Worlds of Adoption: Growing Up in Complex Families**; Dr. Leslie Hollingsworth, University of Michigan, on **Shared Fate in Contemporary Multicultural Adoption Context**; and Dr. Sara Dorow, University of Alberta, on **Transnational Adoption**.

Special sessions are now set and promise to be as stimulating as our plenary sessions, affording multicultural perspectives in research, policy, and practice. They include the following:

Sexuality and Families will feature Dr. Marysol Ascencio, University of Connecticut, sharing her research on **Mapping Latina/o Sexualities Research in the United States**, and Dr. Caitlan Ryan, San Francisco State University, addressing **The Impact of Family Acceptance and Rejection on the**

Health, Mental Health and Well-Being of LGBT Youth.

Aging and Kinship with Dr. Tammy Henderson, Oklahoma State University, and Dr. Eboni Baugh, University of Florida, will focus on **Wellbeing of Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren in Southwest Virginia**. Dr. Bernard Nauck, Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany, will speak about **Kinship Relations in Cross-Cultural Comparison** and how the institutional structure of family and kinship systems have a stronger effect on kinship rela-

tionships than socio-structural factors or individual family-related attitudes.

For the Maori of New Zealand, the whatnau or the extended family is at the heart of tribal life. Dr. Jan Pryor, Chief Families Commissioner of the New Zealand Families Commission, and Kim Workman (Ngati Kahungunu), a member of the commission and retired government official, will present **Whatnau and Family in Aotearoa New Zealand: Bicultural Approaches to Family Research, Policy, and Practice**. Discussion on specific

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Honoring our mentors in San Francisco—a special opportunity

Have you had a life-changing mentor in your life? 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. 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, read through these rules carefully as these are the required 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 (nancygonzalez@ncfr.org) directly from the mentor giving us permission to offer this tribute to him or her, except, of course, if your mentor is deceased.

I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to recognize your mentor. 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 Nancy Gonzalez at NCFR Central; nancygonzalez@ncfr.org.



Leaving Las Vegas

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

It all began the night I saw Donny and Marie Osmond on CNN. The famous sibling entertainers were on *Larry King Live*, plugging their show in Las Vegas. Let's all pause here for some derisive snickering while I make an embarrassing admission—I've been a Donny Osmond fan since I was 11. I wanted to see the show. I ran the idea past my husband.

"How would you like to go with me to see Donny Osmond?" I asked him.

His exact response, and I quote, was "I'd rather have a poke in the eye with a sharp stick."

OK. Fair enough. The thought of going alone was appealing, actually. I never get to be alone, and the solitude would be rejuvenating.

As the idea began to gel, I had another wild idea. I've never seen Utah or Wyoming. I could fly down but then rent a car and drive back. Then, as long as I would be in the neighborhood, I thought about how much fun it would be to see our NCFR members at Brigham Young University on the way back. I could see the country and have some adventure!

Be careful what you wish for.



Donny and Marie were sensational. I got a seat right up next to the stage. The audience was filled with hundreds of ex-teenyboppers like me. If some demographer wanted to study a group of peri-menopausal middle-class White women, this was a perfect convenience population.

Donny sang the songs we grew up hearing; we all squealed like sixth graders. I left very impressed with Marie as well. From her *Dancing with the Stars* experience, she has become a fabulous dancer. From about three feet away, I could see her shoes in clear detail. She does all of her footwork balanced on 4-inch heels that come to a point about the diameter of a pencil eraser. I tried to imagine even standing up in heels like that. Better not, I thought. With a quick computation using the physics of "pounds per square inch," I know I would be punching holes in solid concrete.

The next day I spent driving to the Provo area; I had a dinner date with Alan and Lisa Hawkins that evening and then with Jeff and Tammy Hill the next night. I visited the campus the day in between and had a pizza lunch with the faculty and met wonderful and interesting people such as Stephen Covey of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* fame. Tuesday morning I was off to see Salt Lake City briefly, and then I planned to take I-80 east through Wyoming and back home to Minneapolis. I had no idea how quickly my journey was going to change.

Driving through the mountains in Utah was awe-inspiring. The weather was sunny and so were my spirits. Just as I crossed over the Wyoming state line, it started to snow a few gentle flakes. Within 15 minutes, however, I was battling terror like I'd never seen. The gentle snow went from postcard pretty to blinding blizzard.

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areas of policy and research will illustrate how cultural worldview determines how research or policy development is undertaken.

Religion and Family Life will take both a research and pedagogical focus. Dr. David Dollahite, Brigham Young University, will report on research related to **How Faith Works and Why Religion Matters to Diverse Religious Couples**. Dr. Mary Ann Hollinger, Messiah College, will integrate a beautiful slide show as she addresses **Diversity, Religion and Pedagogy**, showing how families of many different faiths meaningfully integrate religious practice and tradition into their daily lives.

The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Families in the U.S. and Abroad will be presented by Dr. Cynthia Gomez, Professor and Director of Health Equity Initiatives at San Francisco State University.

Military Families: Defining, Assessing, and Building Resilience is designed to increase understanding of factors that contribute to resilience in military families, how that can inform intervention/prevention strategies, and the effectiveness of the Essential Life Skills for Military Families program. Presenters are Dr. Shelly MacDermid, Purdue University, and Dr. Dennis Orthner and Dr. Gary Bowen, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Same Sex Marriage, emphasizing same sex marriage policy, will feature Dr. Gary Gates,

University of California—Los Angeles. His focus will be on **California and U.S. Policy**, and Dr. Hilary Rose, Concordia University, Quebec, will hone in on **Same Sex Marriage: The Canadian Experience**.

Emotion Focused Family Therapy (EFFT) is a model of intervention that helps build strong and cohesive families from the inside out. Gail Palmer, MSW, RMFT, Professor of Family Therapy at Carleton University, Ottawa, will illustrate how the EFFT approach uses new insights from attachment theory to understand distressed and satisfying relationships within a family. A post-conference workshop on the core skills and tasks in therapeutic practice, corresponding interventions, change events that foster a secure bond between family members, and interventions to help families re-process negative affect and restructure negative interactions will follow.

Two final special sessions will focus on **Grounded Theory and International Programs in Family Life Education**. Watch for details, coming soon in the Zippy News listserv and on the NCFR website, about these additional Special Sessions and other conference activities. Also, make plans now to attend the 2009 NCFR conference.

What better way is there to be energized by the latest research and practice than with your colleagues in San Francisco? ■

As a native Minnesotan, I am no weather wuss. I can handle anything Minneapolis can dish out. I've been caught in white-out conditions before, but I have my winter survival kit and the knowledge of local terrain. Driving in a mountain blizzard is something altogether new. In high elevations, there are new variables to deal with that we don't have in Minnesota. Even though it was snowing heavily, we were up in the clouds so that sunlight was peeking through. This made the vista just blindingly white. It's the only time in my life when I've driven through a blizzard with my sunglasses on.

The worst part of mountain driving, however, is that I quickly found out that I don't have an inner gyroscope. Using the hills and valleys as reference points, I became disoriented. Any visual cues from the surrounding topography were playing tricks on me. When I thought I was ascending a hill, I often was headed down and needed to brake. When I thought I was going downhill, I could hear the car's automatic transmission kick into low gear, indicating I was climbing. I remembered my husband telling me that this type of disorientation is the frequent cause of air crashes: pilots ignore their instrumentation and navigate by appearances. I resolved to listen to the transmission and my ear tachometer—they wouldn't lie.

The white nightmare swirled around me. There were no lines in the pavement—it was snowpacked and beginning to ice-over. The cars around me crept along at 20 mph. I followed the taillights of a black Cadillac—another challenge. Winter driving advice tells us to “allow lots of distance between you and the car ahead.” This wasn't possible. If I got too far behind, I lost sight of the Cadillac, and it was my only guide. I couldn't stop either. I was in a white car—any sudden movement could endanger everyone behind me in a chain reaction.

My worst enemy was fear which, in my case, was fed by family history. My great, great grandmother froze to death in 1924. I'd discovered the news story about her when researching my family history. Worse yet, I've read an account of the Donner Party (non-fiction) and the Jack London short story *To Build a Fire* (fiction). Sorry if this is a spoiler for anyone, but both stories end badly. So there I was; well-read on fatal hypothermia in three different genres.

Suddenly, I saw the Cadillac signal right, and an off-ramp appeared out of nowhere. I



followed. At the end of the exit, I could see a truck stop. I needed gas, so I pulled up to a pump. As I opened my door, the fierce wind blew my credit card right out of my hand. I had to get down on my knees to feel around for it in the snow with my bare hands.

The truck stop was full of frightened travelers. I found out that I was in Fort Bridger, Wyoming. It was early afternoon. I placed a call to Alan Hawkins back at BYU. Alan picked up the phone to hear a tearful friend blurt out her predicament. Since I was only about 100 miles away, he was pretty sure he could make some calls to his church leadership who could locate a family in the area who would take me in for the night. He said he'd get to work on it and get back to me. I started conversations with a few truckers and asked for advice; one guy had 15 years of over-the-road trucking experience. He had come from the other direction and told me there was a multi-car pile-up just ahead of where I would've driven. He had briefly entertained the idea of putting on his tire chains and pushing on, but he decided it was just too hazardous.

Cigarette smoke was setting off my asthma, so I went back to the car to try to hear a weather update on the radio. I had been listening to the radio about a half hour,

running the engine, when suddenly I became nauseated and dizzy. Carbon monoxide, I thought in an instant. I shut off the engine, got out into the piercing wind and went to the back of the car to make sure the tailpipe was clear—it was. Maybe it was just nerves, I thought. I dashed back to the truck stop for a cup of tea. In about 20 minutes, my head cleared and I noodled-out what had happened. The 50 mph wind gusts were blowing against the back of my car—the wind had obviously been forcing the exhaust back up the tailpipe into the passenger compartment.

Within just a few minutes, my cell phone rang. It was the regional Bishop, who lived just 10 miles away in Lyman, Wyoming. He was coming to get me.

I tried to envision what a Mormon Bishop would look like; a long flowing robe, a clerical collar and a mitre-style hat came to mind. Bishop Milu Walker looked like *Walker, Texas Ranger!*—a cowboy from central casting. He said he'd found me a room at a motel in his hometown. He said if we drove slowly, I'd be OK as I followed him. This secondary road was in worse shape than the interstate. I followed Bishop Walker at 15 mph for 10 miles on two inches of glare ice. I remember thinking that I wish Avis® rented Zambonis®. About halfway, I saw a double wheel lying in the middle of the road. Then I looked to the shoulder, and there was a truck that was listing to port. Its bare axle was resting on the pavement. He had obviously fishtailed with such force, that his dual wheels had flown right off the axle. I always wondered why towns out in the wilderness had funny names like “Broken Axle.” Now I know.

Soon we arrived at the motel. The Bishop began to speak to the innkeeper with instant rapport—they were obviously friends. I pulled out my wallet and asked if she'd like a credit card.

“No need for that,” the Bishop told me. “It's all taken care of.”

“I can't have you pay for my room on top of all this inconvenience,” I countered.

He wouldn't hear of it. “That's not how we do things out here,” he insisted.

I smiled and told him I was a Methodist and asked if that mattered. He gave me a warm chuckle and then, in an instant, he was gone. I suspect he was headed back out to rescue the fellow with the broken axle.

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The 50s-era motel was right out of a retro movie. My room had shag carpeting, a TV that got only one station, a heater on the wall, a big cast iron bathtub and a double bed with a dent in the middle of the mattress—in other words, to my eyes, it was the Waldorf Astoria. It was clean, warm and wonderfully familiar to distant memories of rural Minnesota. More luck still—the dent in the bed fit my bottom perfectly. The next day, the roads were clear and the rest of my trip home was mercifully uneventful.

This essay ends with a few realizations. When Alan Hawkins mobilized church directories and found help for me, I was seeing the power of social networks and the strong culture of hospitality in the area. Truck stops allow travelers to “loiter” in their buildings all night if necessary. Out there, turning someone out to the elements maybe doesn’t qualify as murder, but it’s a close second. The hospitality of the church culture would go one better. They didn’t leave a woman alone in a truck stop overnight if they could help it.

Rescue comes from the most unexpected places, and here I’m not just talking about Mormon Bishops. In last December’s issue of *NCFR Report*, I wrote my column about the horror of growing up with a violent father. I’ve spent most of my life trying to undo his damage. What I didn’t write about him is that he had one redeeming trait—he was a gifted auto mechanic. His customers thought it was spooky, but he could “hear” an automotive problem on a 10 minute test drive. I grew up listening to him “think out loud” in cars, diagnosing problems. It was from him I learned to pay attention to all of a car’s systems and the messages they send. I knew that nausea in a running car was danger. Ironically, the point of my greatest peril was the carbon monoxide incident. I was parked at a truck stop, safely off the highway. I was lulled into a false sense of security. It was the influence of my father—dead 19 years and resented for even more—that allowed me to deduce why the exhaust system was backing up.

As a result of that column on child abuse, I got many touching emails from members. One, however, stood out in my mind for its gentle Pamela Monroe way of saying to me that she hoped that someday I would find something good that remained. You’re right as usual, Pam. He was frightening, so I had to watch him from afar. But I learned to drive on an old pickup with a “three on the tree” transmission. All these years, I’ve known how to use jumper cables and how to change my oil. I know to clean my battery terminals with baking soda and how to tell when my brake calipers are dragging. All taken for granted. Now I realize how empowering this knowledge is for a woman.

It would mean a lot to me if I could pass along one of my dad’s tips to my readers. I learned from watching Dad that I should park my car in the same spot every day when I go to work. Then, when I leave to go home, I can glance at the pavement when I pull out to see if there are any fluid leaks that have appeared. If so, I know they are probably from my car.

Now this last tip is from me. If you’ll be winter driving over the mountains in a rental, ask for a Zamboni®—and be sure it isn’t white. Then, before you leave the rental counter, make sure you ask for a complete directory of Mormon Bishops.

Epilogue

The hospitality I was shown by the Mormon community was stunning—like some olden days value system that belonged in a rerun of *Little House on the Prairie*. I vowed to my Creator that if I got home safely, I was going to pass it on. Here’s my offer to any traveling NCFR member. If you are ever in the Minneapolis—St. Paul metro area and you are stranded or frightened, call me at NCFR. If it’s after hours, my home phone is on switchboard.com and also listed in 411 under George & Nancy Gonzalez; just give the operator “Nancy Gonzalez” in Minneapolis and the listing comes up. I realize I am extending this offer to over 3,000 people, but I’m not worried. I know NCFR members won’t call just because they’re too cheap to get a cab or to ask me to find a bail bondsman. If your plane has been diverted to Minneapolis and you’re looking at spending a night on the terminal floor... or if you’ve lost your wallet and you don’t have a dime ... or if you need a crucial prescription filled, call me. George and I or my coworkers will figure something out. ■

In Memoriam—Thomas J. Luster

Dr. Thomas J. Luster, 55, passed away Sunday, March 15, 2009, of a massive heart attack while attending a family gathering in Deerfield, IL. He was a long time member of NCFR.

Tom was born in Waukon, IA, on August 19, 1953, to Norbert and Alice (Mullarkey) Hawes. His father passed away when he was 17 months old and later his mother married Ernest J. Luster, who became his adoptive father.

Tom graduated from St. George High School in Lansing, MI in 1971. He attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA in 1975. He received his Ph.D from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., in 1985, with a degree in philosophy. He began his teaching career at Michigan State University in East Lansing in 1985 in the Department of Family and Child Ecology. Tom married Carol McEllhiney in Dubuque on August 9, 1980.

He is survived by his wife, Carol of East Lansing; his daughter, Anna Luster of Indianapolis; his son, Ben Luster, a senior at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; his parents, Ernest and Alice Luster of Lansing; three sisters, Mary Carpenter of Pasadena, CA, Jean (Cari) Ruzich of Beecoer, DE, and Sara (Juan Carlos) Meza of Charlotte, NC; two brothers, Dennis (Barbara) Luster of Janesville, WI, and Bruce (Kathy) Luster of Frisco, TX; nieces and nephews, Kristen (Harold) Laridn and their children, Zachary and Brittany of Evergreen Park, IL, Lisa (Joel) Williams and their son, Kyle, of Wadsworth, IL, and Elizabeth and Olivia Luster of Janesville, IL.

He was preceded in death by his father, Norbert Hawes; his grandparents, Benjamin and Mary Mullarkey, Edward and Lila Hawes, and John and Loella Luster; and a nephew, Kevin Carpenter.

His services were held Saturday, March 21, in East Lansing. The family asks that any memorials made in Thomas Luster’s memory to the Department of Family and Child Ecology at Michigan State University for child development as this was Tom’s area of passion. Send them to: Department of Family and Child Ecology, Michigan State University, 7 Human Ecology Building, East Lansing, MI, 48824.

Association of Councils News

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

In January the Association of Councils (AOC) Board had a day and a half strategic planning meeting. At the meeting we not only discussed some goals, but we spent a lot of time attempting to clarify the names of the AOC structure. The Board felt that there was a lot of confusion concerning the terminology that is often used. There was also a discussion of the relationship of the AOC to the Board of Directors of NCFR. Currently, the AOC President-Elect sits on

the NCFR Board. Through this position there is communication between the AOC and the NCFR Board of Directors. The AOC Board wants to see this relationship continued and strengthened.

The suggested changes in terminology have been communicated to the presidents of the state and student chapters of NCFR. After their feedback, the recommended changes will be presented to the NCFR Board. So, in the future, you will be receiving information

about the status of the terminology related to AOC.

Goals were identified and approved by the AOC Board. One of these goals included increasing membership in the affiliate councils. The AOC Board is considering ways of helping affiliates increase local membership and activity in the state and student councils. There is also a need to increase the total number of state and student affiliates. The AOC Board is committed to providing assistance to those wanting to help create new affiliate councils. Other goals included increasing the long-term viability of affiliate councils. Those councils which have struggled could be assisted by active councils. The Board also felt that it was important to retain members in NCFR and in affiliate councils. It was further stated that it was important to increase engagement of members of NCFR and affiliate councils through leadership opportunities, student support and conference attendance. Finally, it was discussed that it was important to clarify why being a member of NCFR matters.

All of these goals are going to be the basis of discussion and presentations at the annual AOC Workshop at the NCFR Conference in San Francisco. The date of the AOC Workshop is Wednesday, November 11, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, including the annual business meeting. At that meeting members will be encouraged to give input as to how best to reach the goals of AOC. If you have suggestions for format or content of the AOC Workshop, you can contact Dr. Ada Alden, Program Chair of the AOC, at aalden1216@aol.com. Dr. Alden would welcome your suggestions. We hope to see each state and student affiliate board member at the AOC Workshop. ■

Family Therapy Section News

by Jeffery H. Larson, Ph.D., Chair, Jeffrey_larson@byu.edu

Getting excited for the fall conference in San Francisco? Remember the dates: November 11-14, 2009. The theme: "Families in a Multicultural World." We reviewed 51 abstracts that were submitted by FT Section members. This represents a big increase from 2008 (39 proposals submitted). By the time you receive this *Report*, you will know if your abstract was selected. The FT Section leaders warmly thank the 42 reviewers who took their professional time to do the reviews. Each proposal was reviewed by three blind reviewers who used a standardized review form created by NCFR. There were some difficult decisions to make as most of the proposals were well done, but not all can be presented at the meeting. We are excited to announce that we have included several symposiums/workshops that will be of special interest to Section members.

I am excited to announce the FT Section is sponsoring a special post-conference workshop on Saturday, November 14, entitled **Emotion Focused Family Therapy**, with Gail Palmer. Gail is one of the best clinical trainers in the world in utilizing emotion focused therapy (EFT) in a family setting. EFFT, an empirically-supported couple therapy approach, is now being used to help families heal attachment injuries and dysfunction. Gail will present two times on the same day. First is a 90-minute presentation focused on the theory of EFT and the current status of research on its effectiveness; this will be followed 15 minutes later with her three-and-one-half-hour clinical workshop in which she will demonstrate this impressive technique using video tape examples and discussion. *You do NOT want to miss these special*

sessions sponsored by our Section! Note that we scheduled it on Saturday afternoon so most local clinicians can attend on their day off. For conference attendees, you can still fly home Saturday night! I hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Join us after the workshop for a Taste of San Francisco—meaning, let's go down to the wharf and get some of the world's best seafood and ethnic food! This will be a great way to end the conference.

Another exciting happening for our Section is the development of the Kathleen Briggs Memorial Award Fund with a target endowment base of \$10,000 to fund an annual \$500 award to a FT Section member who excels in mentoring/supervising therapy students. To contribute to this fund, simply send a check to NCFR with "Kathleen Briggs Fund" in the memo portion of the check. You may also donate on-line on the NCFR website by clicking on the "Give Direct" button. You may contact Colleen Peterson for more information (colleen.peterson@unlv.edu).

We experienced a 19% increase in Section membership in 2008. We are now the fourth largest Section (of 10)! Please encourage your colleagues and students to join our Section; membership is now FREE for all Sections.

See more information about the conference at: www.ncfr.org. You can go to our listserv at <http://www.ncfr.org/member/sections.asp> and communicate with the entire Section (that's over 500 therapists!). You can send job announcements, ask questions appropriate for Section members to respond to, etc.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in San Francisco! ■



The Rock (Alcatraz), San Francisco

Texas Council on Family Relations awards go to two officers of the Affiliate Council Board

At the Annual Conference of the Texas Council on Family Relations, March 26-27, 2009, two service awards were presented. The first award was the Meritorious Service Award. This award was established in 1981 to acknowledge and encourage outstanding services and support to families and to family life in Texas. When awarded, this is presented to an individual, agency, corporation, foundation or other organization whose contributions are determined to be of significance.

The other award presented this year was the Moore-Bowman Award. This award was established in 1970 to recognize professionals who have made a significant contribution in the area of family life education, marriage and family therapy, and/or family related research in Texas. The award was named for its first two distinguished recipients, Dr. Bernice Milburn Moore and Dr. Henry A. Bowman. The award recognizes professionals whose contributions to family well-being in Texas have been truly outstanding.

This year's Meritorious Service Award was presented to Ms. Marcie Brooke, M.S., CFLE, who is the Executive Director of the Working Family Resource Center and has guided WFRC from a parent education program of the St. Paul Public Schools to its current status as a nationally-recognized business-education partnership promoting work/life education

across the lifespan. Ms. Brooke has been a leader in work/life and family education in Minnesota for over 20 years. Among other awards, she was presented the 1997 Children Youth and Families award, the 2003 Friend of the Family Award and the 2006 Ruth Hathaway Jewson Distinguished Service to Families Award, both presented by the Minnesota Council on Family Relations. Marcie has been on the Board of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations for over ten years and has served as President. She is currently the Past-President of the Affiliate Council's Board.

The Moore-Bowman Award was presented to Richard Sale, Ph.D. Dr. Sale is an Associate Professor of Child and Family Studies at Tarleton State University. Following several years of working in student life at Texas Woman's University and directing a program of on-campus housing for families, Dr. Sale began his teaching career at Tarleton. He has now been in his current position for 12 years. During his tenure at Tarleton, Dr. Sale has received the Patron of the Year Award from the Cross Timbers' Fine Arts Council, the Student Life Award and the Advisor of the Year from the Division of Student Life. He has been active in the Texas Council on Family Relations, serving as a board member, Vice President for Programs and President. Dr. Sale is currently the President of the Affiliate Council's Board. ■

In Memoriam – Suzanne Steinmetz

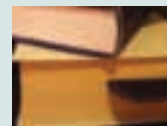
Suzanne K. Kurland Steinmetz, 68, of Delaware and Indianapolis, passed away on March 5, 2009, following a massive heart attack. Suzanne was a long time member of NCFR.

She was born January 17, 1941, in Atlantic City, the daughter of Isadore Kurland and Louise (Tagg) Kurland. Suzanne graduated from Salem High School and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware; her master's and Ph.D. in sociology were earned at Case Western Reserve University. She later received an MSW from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

Suzanne first gained national recognition for her ground-breaking research on Violence in the Family and authored several books on that topic during her tenure at the University of Delaware. She has addressed Congress, NATO, and was a participant at the White House conference for "The Year of the Child" and was invited to the White House to have tea with President Carter. Since joining the faculty at IUPUI, she has served as chair of the Department of Sociology and edited the internationally-recognized *Marriage and Family Review*. She and her spouse, Tom, served as mediators for the Marion County Superior Court. In her youth she studied ballet with Anthony Tudor and danced briefly with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo (now the Royal Ballet).

Suzanne is survived by her husband, Thomas E. Pickett. She is also survived by her sons, George Steinmetz, Gregg Steinmetz; daughter, Singrid Steinmetz; sister, Cyndi L Kurland, and grandchildren, Brian and Sean Ascani, Samuel, Charles, Michael, Rebecca Steinmetz, Matt Villalvazo and Jarrett Steinmetz. Memorials may be made to the Julian Center Shelter, 2011 N Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202.

On the bookshelf



Joshua Coleman, (2007), *When Parents Hurt: Compassionate Strategies When You and Your Grown Child Don't Get Along*, HarperCollins.

R. L. Dalla, J. DeFrain, J. Johnson, & D. Abbot, (2008), (Eds.) *Strengths and Challenges of New Immigrant Families: Implications for Research, Policy, Education, and Service*, Lexington Publishers.

R. Jayakody, A. Thornton, and W. Axinn, (2008), (Eds.) *International Family Change: Ideational Perspectives*, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Michael E. Kirsner, (2008) *Incest's Other Victims. America's Silent Epidemic*, XLibris.

Vera Sonja Maass, (2007), *Facing the Complexities of Women's Sexual Desire*, Springer Science & Business Media LLC.

Vera Sonja Maass, (2008), *Lifestyle Changes: A Clinician's Guide to Common Events, Challenges, and Options*, Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

J. Lebron McBride, (2006), *Family Behavioral Issues in Health and Illness*, Haworth Marriage and Family Therapy, Routledge.

Michael Panar, (2008), *Changes: A Guide Through the Crossroads in Life*, Xlibris Corporation.

Paul C. Rosenblatt (2009), *Shared Obliviousness in Family Systems*, State University of New York Press.

A. Thornton, W. G. Axinn, and Yu Xie, (2007) *Marriage and Cohabitation*, University of Chicago Press.

A. Thornton, (2005) *Reading History Sideways: The Fallacy and Enduring Impact of the Developmental Paradigm on Family Life* (Population and Development Series), University of Chicago Press.

On the Bookshelf is a news column intended to build community by letting colleagues know about new books by fellow members. Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by NCFR. To submit your book for consideration in the next *On the Bookshelf* column, at least one author must be an NCFR member and the announcement will be published once. Send your submission in the exact format of these listings to nancygonzalez@ncfr.org.

Innovations at NCFR: changes on the horizon

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

Big changes are afoot for NCFR's technology presence. In the coming months, members will see a refresh of our website occur, while staff will be busy preparing to migrate our membership database to a new and better software platform.

At last year's annual conference, NCFR unveiled the results of our institutional identity project – including a new graphic identity. This identity is steadily being applied across the organization; our new letterhead and envelopes were delivered the other week, and soon our website will reflect the new look. This project is currently in the planning phases and should take place within the next few months. Note that this won't be a full-blown redesign of ncfr.org. The content and navigation will remain mostly the same, but you will see a new and better look applied to all of our web pages in the near future.

Meanwhile, we are on the cusp of committing to the database upgrade that was placed on hold late last year. The net effect of the new system will be to dramatically improve

NCFR's online e-commerce offerings and provide efficiencies to staff that will enable better member service. While no firm time-tables are yet in place – that should occur within a few weeks of when I am writing this, and we are still on track to begin the migration this year. Our goal is to roll out the new system as soon as possible, without cutting any corners along the way. Stay tuned for details as that unfolds.

There have also been challenges to NCFR's technology environment in recent months, most notably when our web server crashed in early February. On a Monday afternoon (two days before I flew to Mexico for a week's vacation) an alarm sounded on the web server. The indication was that a hard disk had gone bad – not a major problem, since there are multiple redundant drives on the machine to protect against that occurrence. I took the server to a local shop where they installed a new hard disk, but the alarm didn't go away. A little bit of troubleshooting later, we figured out that the trouble wasn't with the hard disk but with the RAID con-

troller that runs the disks. Even worse, when we tried to boot the machine, it went into a blue screen loop. Eventually the server came back to life, but we knew we were running on borrowed time. The next 36 hours were a blur as we frantically migrated everything to another server. In the end we pulled it off, and the NCFR website is again on a stable computer – but as many of you know some configuration issues have had to be fixed along the way. We appreciate the patience members have shown as we've solved these issues and fully restored service.

Moving forward, we at NCFR Central are actively exploring ways to provide more and better online resources for our members and CFLEs. My mantra lately has been "premium online content as a member benefit," and more of my free time than I should admit has been spent learning new technologies to achieve this goal. (If you're interested I've kept a learning journal about this at <http://jasonslamp.wordpress.com>) Eventually this will result in a new and better Community

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Why I attend the NCFR Annual Conference



Over the years, participating in the NCFR annual conference has provided me with a blueprint to achieve my professional goals. Mentored in the organization by my major professor, I was eager to become part of

NCFR and strengthen my skills as a family professional. Serving as a leader at the state affiliate level—and being part of the first Texas cohort to earn Family Life Educator certification—inspired me to serve at the national level. The annual conference gave me a strong network from all over the country, especially the Ethnic Minority Section members, who are a representation of all the sections (researchers, educators and practitioners). Being actively involved provided me with a platform of listening ears and encouraging spirits to help me reach my family professional goals.

Maxine Hammonds-Smith, Ph.D., CFLE, NCFR President

NCFR has been my professional home for over three decades. The annual conference quickly became central in my professional development and continues to be so. The conferences expose the most current research, allow opportunities to meet colleagues, mentor new professionals, and just as important, allow renewing friendships over long leisurely dinners.

Robert M. Milardo, Ph.D., Editor, Journal of Family Theory & Review



Every year I eagerly anticipate attending the NCFR Annual Conference; I wouldn't miss it! No matter what the theme, I find sessions of great interest, I am invigorated by the latest research,

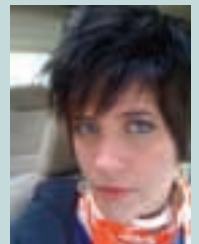
I am motivated by the application and practice presentations, and I glean innovative pedagogical ideas to implement in

my classroom. Just as importantly, I look forward to seeing people who I care about and meeting new professionals who share my passion for families.

Raeann Hamon, Ph.D., Chair, Conference Program Committee

NCFR has embraced the changing culture of family science. What I value most about the annual conference is the openness and enthusiasm for new and collaborative ways of thinking. Looking around the conference you see leading experts and practitioners head-to-head with students and new professionals sharing experiences and ideas with an energy I have not felt at any other professional gathering.

Amanda Williams, Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Oklahoma State University



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innovations continued from page 14

Portal that can function as an online hub and resource base for NCFR members. Getting this done is my major goal for 2010.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve such brilliant and talented members. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me at jasonsamuels@ncfr.org

Note from Editor, Nancy Gonzalez:

Stories of server “crashes” are replete in the media. Even government agencies and multinational corporations have occasional system setbacks—hardware and software do fail. Our February event was irksome, but never scary, because of the “multiple redundancies” in place. I want to give credit where credit is due. Executive Director Diane Cushman, along with Jason, have designed and managed our organization’s systems with excellence. Beyond preparation and planning, Jason literally babysat the systems through a 30 hour transition with only one nap. From leaving food for Jason, dogsitting his dog, and providing moral support, we all pulled together. Every family has a story of a crisis they managed yet one from which they came back stronger. Our server adventure in February tested us, but we passed the test. Thanks to members for understanding the temporary inconvenience and to my colleagues at NCFR Central who are willing to “sleep on the job.” ■

Introducing new NCFR staff member, Jenny Poeschl

We at NCFR are happy to introduce our new coworker, Jenny Poeschl (pronounced PAY-shul). Jenny is our new part-time mailroom and inventory expert. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Doug, and is the mother of two teenagers: Penny (16) and Timmy (14). Jenny was a stay-at-home mom when her children were preschoolers and then reentered the workforce when they were both in school.



Jenny is a proud “soccer mom” and spends significant amounts of time in her “other office,” the car, as she shuttles the kids to a myriad of extracurricular activities. She is also a dedicated community volunteer and has served as a leader in Girl Scouts, as a church youth group activities and a softball coach. She also volunteers frequently at her children’s school, as well. Jenny has a calm and friendly personality, and we enjoy her company very much. Welcome, Jenny! ■

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

To reach NCFR headquarters: info@ncfr.org

To reach specific staff members:

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NCFR Fellows sought!

Greetings NCFR Members! The Fellows Committee is seeking nominations for the 2009 Fellows Awards. Would you please help us by nominating members who have made significant contributions to the organization and the field? A description of Fellow Status in NCFR, the Fellows Award criteria for selection to Fellow Status, and the procedure for submitting nominations follow. The Fellows Committee would greatly appreciate your assistance.

What Is Fellow Status in NCFR?

Fellow status is an honor awarded to relatively few members of NCFR who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to the field of the family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach or professional service, including service to NCFR. By definition, outstanding contributions are those that have had a broad impact on the field and are enduring over time. These contributions occur infrequently. No more than 1% of the number of members in NCFR will be awarded fellow status in any one year.

What Are the Criteria For Fellow Status?

Examples of outstanding contributions having an enduring impact on the field include, but are not limited to:

- Published scholarship that has reshaped or shaped the field of family relations.
- A history of innovation or influential workshop presentation in an area of the family beyond the local level.
- The development and implementation of innovative, novel or significant interventions or programs designed to promote healthy family relations.
- The development and implementation of innovative curricula for training professionals in the area of family science.
- The development of innovative social policy relevant to families.
- A consistent record of superior contributions to NCFR over time.

What is the Procedure for Nominations?

- Must be nominated by another NCFR member.

- Must have at least 10 years of professional experience after the receipt of the appropriate graduate or professional degree.
- Must have been a member of NCFR for at least 5 continuous years at the time of nomination.
- Must have the endorsement of three individuals (including the nominator), at least two of whom are NCFR members, who describe the outstanding nature of the nominees contributions.

Please send your nominations to NCFR at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. NCFR will reply with further instructions on getting started and the information regarding membership status. **Deadline for nominations is June 30th.** We are trying to build this special recognition to further the legacy of outstanding members of NCFR. Let us hear from you and thank you very much for your consideration.

*Submitted by Judith Myers-Walls, CFLE,
Chair, NCFR Fellows Committee,
jmyerswa@purdue.edu*