

In this issue:

Family Focus on Poverty

pages F1 – F20

According to the U.S. Census latest update, the official poverty rate in 2008 was 13.2%—40 million Americans. Health care continues to be a major factor in the lives of the poor, with an estimated 45 million uninsured. Other aspects of poverty affect families in a myriad of sociological and developmental ways. The antecedents and the answers can be elusive. In this issue of *NCFR Report*, your colleagues share some research and commentary on this population.

next issue:

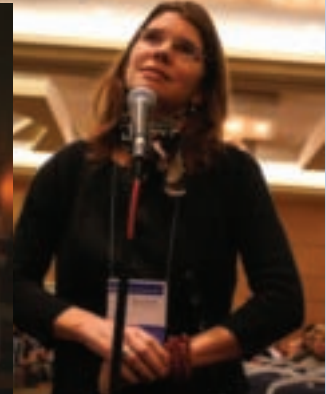
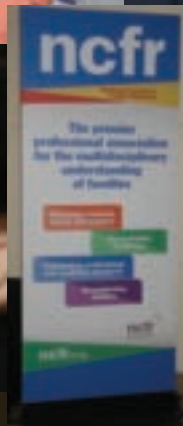
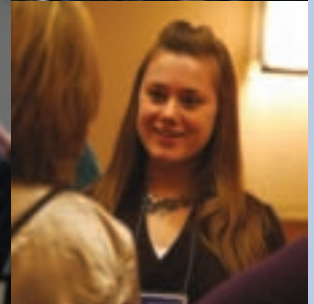
Our Mentoring Stories

To request submission guidelines, contact Editor Nancy Gonzalez at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org. Deadline is extended to January 1, 2010.

Annual Conference 2009

Thank you to all who attended the 71st NCFR Annual Conference. The program committee and NCFR Board of Directors and staff hope you found the experience rewarding and engaging. From leading authors like Andrew Cherlin to college students, the conference attracted a variety of participants whose interests are as diverse as their backgrounds and experience. Yet they all are focused on topics and efforts that yield a common benefit—understanding and strengthening families.

Scenes from the Annual Conference



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: Gary L. Bowen

Board Members: Elaine Anderson, Debra Berke, Norma Burgess, Mary Ann Hollinger, Gary Lee, Soyoung Lee, Glen Palm, Minnell Tralle

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

Editor, NCFR Report: Nancy Gonzalez

Editorial Assistants: Charles Cheesebrough

Adviser: Pamela A. Monroe

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.

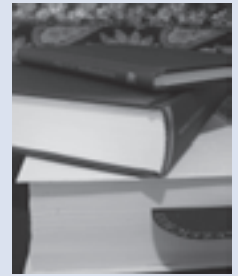
NCFR Report is published quarterly by the National Council on Family Relations, 3989 Central Ave. N.E., Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55421, Fax: 763-781-9348, website: www.ncfr.org. Third class postage permit.

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.

Copyright © 2009 National Council on Family Relations. All rights reserved.

On the bookshelf

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



Brian K. Barber (Ed.) (2009). *Adolescents and War: How Youth Deal with Political Violence*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Thomas N. Bradbury and Benjamin R. Karney (2010). *Intimate Relationships*. W. W. Norton.

Kelley Brigman, Ph.D. (2008). *Marriage: A Simple Guide to Success*. Purple's Edge Media, LLC.

Lara Descartes and Conrad P. Kottak (2009). *Media and Middle Class Moms: Images and Realities of Work and Family*. New York: Routledge.

H. Wallace Goddard and James P. Marshall (2010). *The Marriage Garden: Cultivating Your Relationship So It Grows and Flourishes*. Jossey-Bass.

Abbie E. Goldberg (2009). *Lesbian and Gay Parents and Their Children: Research on the Family Life Cycle*. Washington, DC: APA Books.

Alan J. Hawkins, Ph.D., and Tamara A. Fackrell, J.D. (2009). *Should I Keep Trying to Work It Out? A Guidebook for Individuals and Couples at the Crossroads of Divorce (and Before)*. Published by Utah Healthy Marriage Initiative, 801-468-0043.

George P. Knight, Mark W. Roosa, and Adriana Umaña-Taylor (2009). *Studying Ethnic Minority and Economically Disadvantaged Populations: Methodological Challenges and Best Practices*. Washington, DC: APA Books.

Carmen Knudson-Martin and Anne Rankin Mahoney (Eds.), (2008). *Couples, Gender, and Power: Creating Change in Intimate Relationships*. Springer Publications.

Vera Sonja Maass (2009). *The Cinderella Test: Would You Really Want the Shoe to Fit? Subtle Ways Women Are Seduced and Socialized into Servitude and Stereotypes*. Praeger Publishers.

Lis M. Maurer, CFLE, and Rebecca F. Plante (Eds.) (2009). *Doing Gender Diversity: Readings in Theory and Real-World Experience*. Westview Press.

Nelwyn B. Moore, J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr., and Terri D. Fisher (Eds.) (2010). *Speaking of Sexuality*. Third edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

Mihaela Robila (2009). *Eastern European Immigrant Families*. New York: Routledge.

Elizabeth Rudd and Lara Descartes (Eds.) (2008). *The Changing Landscape of Work and Family in the American Middle Class: Reports from the Field*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Berardo Award for Excellence in Mentoring— Inaugural Award to be presented in 2010

An award is now established in honor of the late Dr. Felix Berardo, longtime member and NCFR Fellow. The purpose of the annual award is to recognize an NCFR member whose work has been noted for excellence in mentoring. The criteria for application are listed in the flyer contained in this issue of *NCFR Report* along with information on all other NCFR awards. Deadline is May 1, 2010 and the award and its accompanying stipend of \$1,500 will be conferred at the 2010 annual conference in Minneapolis.

Dr. Berardo and his family established this endowment because of the outstanding mentoring that he received in his own career by Dr. F. Ivan Nye. The Berardos wished to leave this legacy to ensure that NCFR members who are gifted mentors will be honored each year. ■



Passing the NCFR leadership and reflecting on results

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

After having served with a dedicated and outstanding board and working side-by-side with a committed staff for the past two years, it is a pleasure to pass the leadership responsibility to incoming president, Gary Bowen and the 2010 Board of Directors.

During my two years as president, I worked with two teams of board members. The first team started with me when I served as president-elect and was with me at the starting line of my first year as president. This Board of Directors thought through with me achievable goals for my two-year tenure; some members of that board completed their tenure at the end of my first year as president. I want to personally thank that Board for their visionary leadership and being there to jump-start my presidential term.

The second team of Directors are those who began their tenure the second year of my presidency and will remain on the board in 2010. I want to thank them for their support in seeing me to the finish line and helping to accomplish the goals and objectives for the 2007-2009 Board. It is with gratitude that I extend my sincere thanks to both groups of Directors for their innovative vision for NCFR. The success of the 2007-2009 Board of Directors could not have been accom-

plished without the assistance of a loyal and committed staff and our professional membership. It is with all three legs of this leadership (the Board, the membership and the staff) that we have accomplished many successes the last two years.

My Reflections

- As I was coming in as president, the organization was in the process of revisiting our identity and moving forward with an incoming Executive Director and new members of the Board of Directors. Cindy Winter, our long-time conference planner, connected with Dwight Jewson, the son of NCFR's first full-time Executive Director, at a memorial service for his mother, Ruth. An accomplished organizational consultant, Dr. Jewson, agreed to lead the organization through the process of re-thinking who we are, what we do, and how we look.
- In my first article for the *Report*, I wrote about "looking through the lenses of a diverse group of Family Professionals." I used the "Under the Big Tent" concept that referred to the inclusion of diversity; all who come are welcomed under the Big Tent. I promised, together with Board of Directors, that we would echo the Big

Tent concept by looking through the lenses of our profession.

- Together with the Board of Directors, we employed our keen vision for continuous reviewing, updating, and revising the governance policies that are aligned with the goals and objectives of the organization.
- I worked side-by-side with a dedicated and loyal staff to develop exciting systems that make NCFR the leading family science professional organization.
- We have kept our membership informed and involved at all levels, and this includes affiliate councils, sections, committees, task forces, and the overall membership.
- The Affiliate Councils and selected members assembled for breakfast in the presidential suite last year to focus on ways to strengthen state affiliates and to take the "next step" in supporting our state, regional, and student affiliates.
- The diversity concept for NCFR was renewed.

How true it is that learning is a journey; there is not an end to life-long learning. My two-year term as president has truly been enjoyable and rewarding. I am so grateful to have been entrusted by our membership to serve in this leadership position and together with the Board of Directors, the staff and the membership I am pleased to report that we delivered in all areas with exciting results for 2007-2009.

As an organization we made major strides in seven major areas. These are briefly summarized below. Be sure to see the next issue of *Report* for the "Report Card" from our executive director.

A renewed commitment to the mission of NCFR

Through a variety of efforts related to clarifying and portraying our institutional identity, we established our organization as one that is "catalyzing research, theory, and practice."

president's review continued on page 4

Thank you donors!

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

Louise Alderson	Judith Fischer	Patricia Martinson
William D. Allen	Daniel E Hanks, III	Hamilton I. McCubbin
Deborah C. Bailey	Tammy Henderson	Rudabeh Roudi Nazarinia
Debra L. Berke	M. Janice Hogan-	Dan Nyaronga
Maureen S. Blankemeyer	Schiltgen	Terri Orbuch
Wynona J. Bryant-	Pius Itodo	Glen Palm
Williams	Robert E. Keim	Kennon Rider
Deborah P. Coehlo	Michael Kirsner	Karen Seccombe
Diane Cushman	Ralph La Rossa	Robert Tuttle
Akosua Dhfa Eghan	Doris Leviness	John M. Williams
Karen Goldrich Eskow	Gary M. Laumann	Anisa Zvonkovic
	Margaret Shields Lindlof	

Organizational governance and board leadership

We took a good look at our governance, at representation for all, and at our connections to all parts of the organization and improved processes and opportunities as a result.

Strengthened local presence through support of Affiliate Councils

Affiliates are getting more services and more dedicated time and effort from staff now. A strong strategic plan came from the Affiliate Councils Board that provides a framework for more progress.

Administrative excellence

Vision has been turned into systems and procedures as our leadership and staff dedicated themselves to doing things better and more efficiently.

Member communications

NCFR upgraded all its capabilities employing new technology and new staffing to improve the way messages are developed and delivered.

Family life education

The CFLE program continues to grow in terms of credentialed individuals, approved programs at colleges and universities around the country, and updated and new publications.

Annual conference

This world-class meeting of scholars, teachers, and service providers brought together members for networking, information sharing, and camaraderie. From a variety of backgrounds and interests, our common interest continues to be "strengthening families."

Thanks and pledge to continue to serve with a purpose

I want to personally express my thanks to Diane Cushman, our NCER Executive Director, for her keen oversight and tireless work for NCER.

She has been most helpful in every way with tremendous passion and zeal to ensure that we in NCER continue to reach our vision and to be the Number 1 family professional organization. Diane and the NCER staff bring enthusiasm and dedication to all their efforts. NCER is the world-class organization for family scientists, practitioners, and researchers because of our membership, our executive director, and our dedicated staff.

It is with these efforts and those of the Board of Directors and you as members, that I have enjoyed my tenure as president. Be assured, you can look forward to more great achievements under the leadership of Gary Bowen and the 2010-2011 Board of Directors, the staff and the membership. It has been a pleasure serving in this leadership role and I pledge to continue to serve the organization with a purpose. ■

Elections Council

Get involved in the leadership of your organization—vote and nominate

by Donna L. Sollie and Suzanne M. Randolph, NCER 2010 Elections Council Co-Chairs

Get involved in the leadership of YOUR organization!

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

VOTE in upcoming elections (February 2010)

The Elections Council wants to encourage all members to vote in February 2010. We have submitted a nomination slate (ballots will be mailed to members in February 2010) for terms that will be filled at the end of the national meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota in November 2010. The nominees are:

Board Member-at-Large (2010-2013)

Sally A. Lloyd – OH	or	Maureen Perry-Jenkins – MA
I. Joyce Chang – MO	or	Jennifer L. Hardesty – IL

Student/New Professional Board Representative (2010-2012)

Andrew O. Behnke, CFLE – NC	or	Kristy Y. Shih – CA
-----------------------------	----	---------------------

Program Chair Elect (2010-2011) (Program Chair for 2012 Conference)

Leigh A. Leslie – MD	or	William Marsiglio – FL
----------------------	----	------------------------

Student/New Professional Program Representative (2010-2012)

Edna Alfaro – AZ (Student)	or	Cassandra J. Dorius – PA (Student)
----------------------------	----	------------------------------------

Elections Council (2010-2013): (two positions)

Alan C. Acock – OR	or	Mark J. Benson – VA
Rebecca A. Adams, CFLE – IN	or	Laura A. Sanchez – OH

Fellows Committee (2010-2013): (two positions)

Bert N. Adams – WI	or	Roger H. Ruben – MD
Jean W. Bauer – MN	or	Gladys J. Hildreth, CFLE – TX

NOMINATE YOURSELF/OTHERS for February 2011 slate (due January 31, 2010)

The Elections Council wants to encourage all members to submit nominations for the February 2011 slate. Nominate yourself or others. Here are the Selection Criteria (Source: NCER By-Laws, May, 2002, Article IX, Section 2, B 3) to help you decide whether you would be willing to be nominated and/or to identify potential candidates for the upcoming election:

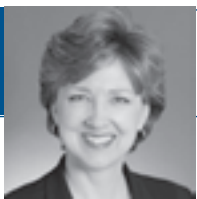
- Knowledge and/or experience in areas reflecting broad trends in Family Studies in the United States and internationally.

elections council continued on back page

Call for Proposals

Annual Conference 2010

Begin planning now to submit your proposal to the 72nd NCER Annual Conference, Nov. 3-6, 2010. Deadline is March 1. All submissions are done on line. Visit the NCER website at www.ncfr.org and follow links to instructions.



Our changing organization

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

Conference update

Clear vision and excellent planning skills are hallmarks of our 2009 Conference Program Chair, **Raeann Hamon, Ph.D., CFLE**.

We have her, the 2009 Program Committee, and scores of other members and staff to thank for another successful annual conference and business meeting. San Francisco proved to be a popular venue for NCFR. See www.ncfr.org for photos of conference attendees and sessions.

Ramona Faith Oswald, Ph.D., 2010 Conference Program Chair, **Nancy Gonzalez, CFLE**, and our 2010 Planning Committee have been working for a year to plan an engaging conference program in Minneapolis, November 2-6, at the Hilton downtown, an elegant hotel in the heart of the city, connected via skyway to shopping and entertainment districts famous to Minneapolis. Please mark your calendar now for this conference.

Dr. Oswald's conference theme is *Families and Innovation*, a topic that supports an extraordinarily exciting program agenda. "Plenary sessions will highlight new research on family issues that push against conventional ideas and/or illustrate the gaps between what we know and what we could know if we did things differently," said Dr. Oswald. This theme supports NCFR's goal of "catalyzing leading-edge research, theory and practice" by bringing innovations in science, technology, policy, education, and research to our members.

We welcome **Leonor Boulton Johnson, Ph.D.**, as our 2011 Conference Program Chair. Dr. Johnson is Professor of Family Studies in African and African American Studies at Arizona State University. She has chosen the theme, "Building a Family-Centered Economy" and invites sections to partner with her to plan sessions and forums that "transform theory and research into practical applications for families facing challenges to their health, shelter, work, and values." Mark your calendar now for November 15-19, 2011, and plan to join us in Orlando.

Elected officers

Dr. Maxine Hammonds-Smith, Ph.D., CFLE, concluded her service as president of NCFR in November, at the end of the 2009 annual conference. Dr. Hammonds-Smith has been instrumental in bringing our new institutional identity to life, honoring our longtime members who have made sustained contributions to NCFR and the field over time – many as mentors to students and colleagues, reinforcing our policy governance model, and adding elegance and tradition to NCFR through events like the President's Reception at the 2008 conference in Little Rock at the Governor's Mansion. The staff at NCFR thanks her for her tireless commitment to us, to NCFR and to the field of family science.

We welcome **Gary Bowen, Ph.D.**, Kenan Distinguished Professor at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as NCFR's 62nd president. Dr. Bowen's areas of interest include: Social Work with Families; Middle and High School Success; Crime and Violence in Schools; Work and Family Linkages; Military Families; Community Capacity

Building; Neighborhood Effects; Performance Driven Management and others. His emphasis while president of NCFR will be "engagement," a timely concept for NCFR.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome **Elaine Anderson, Ph.D.**, president-elect, to the NCFR Board of Directors. Dr. Anderson is Professor of Family Science, University of Maryland. She has previously served in many elected positions at NCFR including on the Affiliate Councils Board.

Our other new Board member is **Minnell Tralle, M.Ed.**, Program Leader for Family Relations, University of Minnesota Extension, and Affiliate Councils Board President-elect. Minnell's introduction to NCFR came by way of active involvement with the Minnesota Council on Family Relations, an NCFR affiliate council. She's a strong proponent of affiliate councils and believes they bring quality professional development, networking and support for students to the local level. Minnell is the President-elect of the Affiliate Council Board.

Dr. Chloe Merrill, CFLE, ended her term on the NCFR board and now moves to the

executive review continued on page 6

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.

Introducing my.ncfr.org

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

We at NCFR HQ are proud and excited to announce that the new NCFR member portal is online and open for business. Visit <http://my.ncfr.org> to find faster, better ways to access journals, look up colleagues, view NCFR and section documents, contribute to NCFR award and scholarship funds, renew your membership, shop the NCFR Bookstore, register for conferences, print past invoices, and more.

This new online portal is the public face of NCFR and the result of a nearly two-year

long project to implement a new membership database. That project began in late 2007 with an RFP to consultants to help NCFR select the best software vendor to suit the organization's needs. Through 2008, NCFR staff undertook a thorough review of the available options and decided on a preferred vendor. But as we were negotiating a contract in late September and early October, the economic collapse occurred. Making such a large and long-term financial commitment suddenly became a risky move, and the purchase was placed on a six-month hold.

In April of this year we resumed the project, and our preferred vendor offered us a deal that we could work with: NCFR was to become the first customer to implement Association Anywhere Standard Edition. By slimming down some of the software's features and drastically streamlining the implementation process, we cut up-front costs in half and ongoing costs by about a third. This approach also compressed the implementation timeline to three months from about six to nine months. On August 10, NCFR completed our database implementation on time and 20% below the already reduced project budget.

The new database is a vast improvement over the system it replaced. It is somewhat remarkable how quickly everyone in the office has taken to it, and the efficiencies and ease of use it brings are only the beginning – we have still only scratched the surface of its capabilities. Over the coming year, we will be working to refine our procedures using the new system to enhance information on member interests and expertise, centrally track committee and board positions held within the organization, better manage publication fulfillment, and much more.

It was a whirlwind summer getting this new system in place, but it wouldn't have been complete without your feedback. Prior to going live with the software we called for members to beta test the new online portal and submit feedback. Forty-four people participated and offered literally hundreds of comments on navigation, formatting and layout, language and wording, types of information requested, online forms, results of transactions, and general usability. Responding to and implementing change from this volume of feedback was a challenging task, but well worth the effort. The final result is so much better as a result and we thank you for that. ■



executive review *continued from page 5*

Affiliate Council Board (ACB) as president. Dr. Merrill is the first Affiliate Council Board president-elect to serve non-concurrent terms as NCFR Board Member and ACB President. After two years on the NCFR Board she now moves over to President of the ACB where she will hit the ground running. Dr. Merrill has ambitious goals for the growth of our affiliate councils. Dr. Merrill, along with Dr. Raeann Hamon, has been instrumental in the creation of the NCFR Student Honors Recognition Program.

Thank you to **Dr. Richard Sale** for serving as the President of Affiliate Council Board. Dr. Sale led the ACB through its first strategic planning session and its reorganization.

We welcome **Sandra J. Bailey, Ph.D., CFLE**, and **Karen S. Wampler, Ph.D.**, to the Elections Council and **Frank Fincham, Ph.D.**, **Catherine A. Surra, Ph.D.**, and **Shirley M.H. Hanson, RN, Ph.D., CFLE**, to the Fellows Committee.

We thank the section chairs who ended their terms in November: **Thomas Chibucos**, **Aine Humble**, **Catherine Solheim**, **Linda Behrendt**, and **Ronald Sabatelli**. We welcome new section chairs: **Wm. Michael Fleming**, **Lisa M. Taylor**, **Paul Schvaneveldt**, **Joe D. Wilmoth** and **Shelley MacDermid**.

To these and the scores of other NCFR volunteers, thank you for your commitment and service.

Journal editors

Joyce Arditti, Ph.D., concludes her term as Editor of *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies (FR)*, at the end of 2009. Under the editorship of Dr.

Arditti, FR has moved up to rank 14 of 31 journals in Family Studies and 4 of 29 journals in Social Work with an Impact Factor of 1.322, which represents a year-over-year increase of 50 percent. Dr. Arditti's commitment to *Family Relations* has been evident throughout her tenure. We express our deepest gratitude to her for her five years of service.

We welcome **Ron Sabatelli, Ph.D., CFLE**, to *Family Relations* (see Summer 2009 *Report* cover story). Dr. Sabatelli's University of Connecticut *FR* editorial office has been accepting journal submissions since March 2009 and will publish its first issue in February of 2010.

Technological advances

I would be remiss if I did not mention that our new association management software is up and running. You no doubt have found your profile on my.ncfr.org and updated it with your most current professional information. **Jason Samuels**, our IT Manager, describes the site in his column. Kudos to Jason, **Charlie**, **Pat**, **Dawn**, **Maureen**, and all NCFR staff for their work in getting this new system up and running in record time and under budget.

Generosity

In the spring I asked for your continued commitment to NCFR through your renewal of membership. I am pleased to report that as of the end of September, NCFR's membership was at its highest point in over a year. Thank you for your support of NCFR. We will keep working to add member benefits so that your affiliation with NCFR will be of great value to you in your professional endeavors. ■



Will a Family Life Education Month increase awareness?

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

A recent policy brief published by *The Future of Children* (www.futureofchildren.org) asked if parent training could reduce abuse, enhance development, and save money. The authors propose a strategy for testing community-developed parent training initiatives in hopes that such tests could “generate knowledge of the feasibility of different approaches to reducing child maltreatment and promoting child development.”

The article reports that several experts have estimated the national cost of “child maltreatment, conduct problems, and educational failure” resulting from poor parenting. The estimates included direct costs of \$23 billion from the Urban Institute to a staggering \$70 billion in indirect costs estimated by Prevent Child Abuse America.

The policy brief recognizes the critical role that parents play in children’s cognitive and emotional development and physical well-being. It suggests that it is possible to reduce the financial costs and developmental disruptions caused by child maltreatment by working to ensure that children receive the parenting they need to succeed. The authors promote that an aggressive research agenda is needed to “identify new and effective parenting programs” which could result in significant financial and emotional savings.

While this brief focuses on the need for methods to identify effective parenting education programs, its message carries across to many aspects of family life education and the value of taking a preventive approach to family and societal issues. Parenting education is becoming one of the more visible and recognized forms of family life education. But as Certified Family Life Educators know, family life education can also include relationship skills, marriage education, sex education, financial literacy and more. The use of family life education resources and services typically arises out of need: engaged couples pursue premarital education; expectant parents seek

parenting classes. It is encouraging to see the increase in the availability and utilization of these types of classes.

But in order to be even more proactive we need to help individuals and families access

family life education classes, often before they even know they need them. Few people will have the initiative to seek out a class on money management or a course on relationship

cfle directions continued on page 8

cfle

Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between July 1 and October 27, 2009.

California

Ana Morante *
Ruth Nichols *

Colorado

Jennifer Hess *

Connecticut

Sara Johnson *

Florida

Yaa Frempong *
Amanda McWhorter *
Karley Pagel *
Laura Taylor *

Kansas

Tyronica Burks

Louisiana

Dana Coons *

Maine

Sarah Russell *

Massachusetts

Francesca Devaney *

Michigan

Jodi Brown
Jacqueline Chandler *
Rita Cunningham *
Emily Gau *
Sarina Grewe *
Trysta Harns *
Kendra Jackson *
Dominique Johnson *
Julie Legg *
Ashley Reeves *
Robin Ronk *
Vanessa Simmons *
Joanne Sweedyk *

Kristina Varga *

Bridget Vermeesch
Jeffrey Erin Wade *
Kaleena Weaver *
Kathy Zeh

Minnesota

Hope Esala *
Angela Fischer
Katherine Heilig *
Elizabeth Kleiter
Jennifer Todd *

Mississippi

Tietti Chandler *

Missouri

Anders Davidson *

Montana

Jennifer Wacker *

Nebraska

Rebecca Burrows *
Danielle Thoene *
Holli Yager *

New York

Stephanie Carlson *
Christina Ignelzi *
Karen Scialabba

Nevada

Stacie Furman *
Bridget Walsh
Mollie Young *

North Carolina

Megan Barhardt *
Sherry Duke *
Jessie Motsinger *
Erin Simile *

North Dakota

Tiffany Jensen

Ohio

Lisa Daugherty *
Rosemary Eustace *
Alison Garipey *
Nycholas Greig *
Stephanie Hunker *
Kristen Junga *
Amanda Lasko *
Tanya Purcell *
Erin Sullivan *

Oklahoma

Michelle King *
Jonathan Wilson *

Oregon

Kara Busick *

Pennsylvania

Margeaux Monsour *

Texas

Jeremy Boden
Casey Harrelson *
Molly Kier *
Andy Stoker *

Utah

Brian Horning *

Washington

Ruth Sunde *

Canada

British Columbia
Erica Kohos *

*Provisional



Overdrawn at the blood bank

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

The Friday before Christmas, two years ago—2007—I almost died. Really.

A couple days previously, I had gotten a call from the blood bank asking me to come in to donate. I was a regular customer. As an O+, I am one of the “universal donors,” meaning that with a few exceptions, any blood type with a positive Rh factor can accept a pint from me—the majority of the population. I had that Friday off, so I went in for a donation first thing, planned to run holiday errands all day and then get a haircut.

At the donation site, they always tell me to take it easy for the day and drink plenty of fluids—blah, blah, blah. I never do. It’s never been a problem. In my healthy hubris, I flew out the door to begin a busy day. About 3 pm at the hair salon, I collapsed.

After losing a pint of blood and not drinking for several hours, I had become dehydrated and went into hypovolemic shock. Once shock sets in, without intervention, death is just minutes away.

The first thing I remember is the sound of ripping Velcro. I opened my eyes and saw two frowny firefighters kneeling over me with a blood pressure cuff. I put 2 and 2 together—blood donation, no liquids, Christmas shopping—and I knew what had happened. I told them I’d given blood that morning and asked what my blood pressure was. They wouldn’t tell me, even after two requests. Later I found out it was 53 over zero—they couldn’t get a diastolic reading at all. Then I drifted off again. My hairdresser tells me I was out about 20 minutes. The firefighters got

there first and, until they gave me oxygen, I was on my way to looking as blue as a Smurf.

Now here’s the weird bit. I knew I was dying, and I was 100% okay with it. I was in heaven. It was a Near Death Experience (NDE), but not the kind one reads about inasmuch as I didn’t see any deity or lighted tunnels. But I’d never felt better in my life! As I drifted through different levels of consciousness, I felt an indescribable euphoria—a feeling of total well-being, with no fear, insecurities, or anxiety. I am a perpetual worrier, so this was Heaven’s Day Spa. During all of this, I had a dialog with some kind of inner Counselor. I decided that it was time to move on, but needed to think through a few details first.

report from minneapolis continued on page 10

cfle directions *continued from page 7*

skills or communication and conflict resolution until they are facing financial difficulties or problems in a relationship. As family professionals, we can certainly work to increase awareness of the value of education in dealing with normal family stressors. But we also want more people to recognize the availability and value of family life education from the very beginning of the life cycle. We need to bring the concept of educating about daily life skills to a broader consciousness and instill an understanding that much of what we need to succeed as healthy, functioning individuals and families can and should be taught. The bottom line is that we need more people to know that family life education exists and it’s available to them.

One method toward this goal is the establishment of a Family Life Education Month. CFLE Tammy Whitten, in a CFLE *Network* article about moving family life education forward, suggested that we establish a Family Life Education day, week or month as a way to increase awareness. Before her article had even arrived in CFLE’s mailboxes I received an email from another CFLE asking if a

Family Life Education day existed. It seemed there was something in the air so I posted the idea on the CFLE listserv. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Many CFLEs provided examples of other related organizations that had identified a specific day, week or month towards a specific cause. Most efforts start at the local level with a proclamation by a Mayor or Governor and it appears that this first step is usually fairly easy to accomplish. NCFR has often had the week of the NCFR conference declared to be “The Week of the Family” by the governor of the state in which the NCFR conference takes place. This proclamation can provide a foundation for a new proclamation addressing the specific need and value of family life education.

We plan to work on this effort over the next few months with the goal of launching a Family Life Education month in 2010. This will be especially fitting since 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of the introduction of the Certified Family Life Educator credential (the first CFLE was certified in 1985).

We are in the early stages of planning, but we hope to involve NCFR Affiliate Councils and universities and colleges throughout the country to ensure that this effort gets local and national attention. We hope to create an event planning handbook and other tools and resources to help people all around the country launch an effort in their community. Obviously establishing a Family Life Education Month will not in itself accomplish everything. There are identified months and weeks for everything from National Soft Pretzel Month (April) to National Macaroon Day (May). But we can use the establishment of a Family Life Education Month as an incentive to sponsor and launch events and activities that will bring the concept of family life education into the awareness of more people. Perhaps this effort could become as newsworthy as the reports about the lives where family life education could have prevented sorrow and tragedy.

The Future of Children (2009). Barth, R.P., & Haskins, R. *Will Parent Training Reduce Abuse, Enhance Development, and Save Money? Let’s Find Out.* ■



Families and Innovation

by Ramona Faith Oswald, Ph.D., Program Chair

Innovation is the creation of new objects or ideas – it is the process by which people introduce, re-think, adapt, surprise, generate, transform, and otherwise move some part of the world in a new direction. Innovation brings attention to human agency and creativity, and the importance of recognizing our capacity to think, act, and react beyond “the norm” or what is expected. It carries the risks and opportunities of change.

“Families and Innovation” is the theme of the 2010 National Council on Family Relations annual conference. Plenary sessions will highlight new research on family issues that push against conventional ideas and/or illustrate the gaps between what we know and what we could know if we did things differently. The intention behind this theme is to invigorate the work of family researchers, teachers, policy makers, and practitioners by creating a forum for intellectually rigorous exploration, conversation, and debate.

Decisions about topics and invited speakers for the plenaries and other major sessions are under consideration currently and will be announced in January. Their selection is guided by my desire to identify new ways of thinking about families, as well as seeing the “old” in a new way.

As of this writing (early December), we do have five confirmed topics/speakers that will be included in the program. Details on these presentations are included below, although the format and scheduling are still to be determined.

“Innovations in Family Policy” is a major session on policy by Maria Cancian, Ph.D., Professor of Public Affairs and Social Work at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Cancian is a renowned economist working in the area of poverty reduction. Her talk will address the economic challenges facing families today and how we might remedy them with creative economic policies.

In addition to Dr. Cancian’s plenary, we are delighted to announce a “fireside chat” between Dr. Cancian and Dr. Glen Elder, Jr.

on the topic “The Current Recession v. The Great Depression.” Glen Elder is a father (perhaps *the* father) of life course theory and his book *Children of the Great Depression* continues to be hailed as foundational across multiple social science disciplines. Their conversation is not to be missed!

We also have an opportunity to rethink what Sandra Bem labeled “gender polarization,” namely, the cultural conviction that people are either female or male. If you are a sports fan you may have been following the recent story about Caster Semenya, the female South African sprinter who has been identified as intersex, which means that she is physically both male and female. The sensationalist accounts of this story have obscured the fact that intersexuality is relatively common, affecting an estimated 1 in 2000 live births and thus an estimated 1 in 2000 families. In this session, Professor Sharon Preves of Hamline University, St. Paul, the author of *Intersex and Identity: The Contested Self*, will present her widely acclaimed research on how intersexed people and their loved ones negotiate both (and in) an either/or world. Her presentation is entitled “Intersexuality in Families: Beyond Pink and Blue.”

Minneapolis is home to the world-renowned Institute for Victims of Torture, and their Research Director, Dr. Jon Hubbard, will present “Healing from Torture: Current Issues in Interventions.” The field of torture treatment is less than 20 years old and Dr. Hubbard leads the internationally preeminent research team studying the impact of torture in individuals, families, and communities. Further, they are evaluating the effectiveness of treatment methods. This session, by the way, occurs at about the same time that the U.S. Guantanamo Bay detention facility is scheduled to close. It should be a stimulating opportunity to theorize the impact of military and foreign policy on family life, and to possibly gain insight regarding the prevention and treatment of other forms of violence. We may also be able to organize a clinician workshop with Center staff.

The fourth presentation that is set is entitled “Recent Scholarship on Issues of Diversity and Family Studies: Looking Back and Moving Forward.” This session will include a panel from the forthcoming special issue of our leading journal, *Journal of Marriage and Family—Decade in Review*. Panelists will be among those authors whose work emphasizes family diversity.

Minneapolis is an ideal location for the 2010 annual conference. Full disclosure: I am a former Minneapolitan who continues to rave about what an amazing and wonderful place it is. It is a city that has longstanding economically thriving food cooperatives in virtually every neighborhood. It is a city where a school librarian transitioned from male to female and few people cared. A place where public access to lakes and streams and bike trails and parks are vociferously defended. Oh, and the arts. The arts are everywhere. You can even request a poem at the train station. In my mind, Minneapolis is synonymous with innovation because the public culture embraces creativity, social justice, and quality of life. I am currently talking with the Walker Art Center to design an evening program for our conference. The local arrangements committee and section chairs have so many opportunities to design special sessions and pre or post conference events that take advantage of what this city and the surrounding region offers. Please read the call for proposals and consider submitting your own work to this conference. I am truly excited to see what comes together as we finalize our plans.

Finally, contrary to the reputation for Minnesota winters, I want to emphasize some facts from the National Weather Service. The average first snowfall is November 18 in Minneapolis—after the conference. Complete snow cover before Thanksgiving is extremely rare. In addition, downtown Minneapolis is connected by an extensive network of skyways: you will be able to shop, dine and have all kinds of fun without even donning a jacket. ■

As if working from a checklist, my Counselor and I ticked off the answers to my questions. My first thought was of my life insurance. This Counselor helped me calculate what my husband George would need to pay off the house and then how much would be left for our son's college tuition. That was the first miracle—it's the only time I've ever done arithmetic in my head successfully. I remembered that life insurance is tax free. I remembered that I had a will, left everything to George, so he wouldn't have any probate or other worries. Our son was 19—he could get by without me. Any value system I wanted to download into him was already done. My husband is a strong, competent man, and they could take care of each other. NCFR could replace me, no problem. I was sick of 47 years of worry, and I was feeling so wonderful, I wanted to stay. But I was sent back.

Since that day, I have read about the phenomenology of NDEs and how survivors often report their disappointment upon coming back "down to earth." This is my experience, too. In the ambulance I woke up to a cold, wet downer. I was shivering. Not only had the euphoria dissipated, when I asked the paramedic why I felt so clammy, he told me I'd thrown-up on myself and wet my pants. Great. He assured me that this was typical of shock and not to be embarrassed. He jammed what felt like a garden hose into my hand and was pushing in fluids. "You're a quart low!" he said cheerfully. I glanced at my hand. The needle was the diameter of a coffee stirrer. He was pumping the IV bag with his bare hands. I could feel the cold liquid going up my arm. By the time we left the parking lot, he told me he'd already pushed in a half liter. He asked me to whom I belonged, and I rattled off my husband's work phone.

In the emergency room, I was disillusioned and resentful. I responded to everyone with monosyllabic answers. The nurse said, "You don't look that happy to see us." I wasn't. I wanted to go back. My husband walked in shortly after I arrived. I looked at him with pity and thought to myself, "You poor guy; you almost had a windfall." My trip to heaven and all the way back home was just four hours. By 7 pm, I was at home, tired, but completely recovered.

Coming to terms with the existential and spiritual significance of that day is something that I'm still processing. I am a woman of faith, yet for weeks after the event, I was in a full-blown snit with God. Those were the

best 20 minutes of my life. I felt extremely guilty questioning my situation in light of all of the people who are fighting for their lives. Mercifully, God understands human cries for answers: in my Bible, the Psalms are just full of them. Then my Pastor, my husband and one of my best friends helped me through it. With each of them, I could "talk crazy," express ambivalence about being alive, and from each of them I got Carl Rogers' "unconditional positive regard." Most other people either thought I was nuts or would tell me "you must have something important left that you are destined to do." There's no way to know whether this is true. It sounded like a well-meaning but empty platitude. The best I can come up with in terms of a mission I can serve is to assure anyone who fears death that the journey is a gentle and wonderful one.

How many uninsured Americans don't call 911 in time because they're worried about the cost?

That day I learned something important about myself—how deeply I fear poverty. When I got to "heaven," the most important concern for me was that my family would not be impoverished. Every thought was about their financial well-being. I know why. My life began a couple notches down from my current social stratum. Through hard work, getting two college degrees, and paying on student loans for 10 years, I had escaped—and I wasn't going back.

Clearly NCFR is with me wherever I go, because immediately I started thinking about the public policy implications, which were instantly powerful and worrisome, even before I got to the ER. Right on the gurney, I thought about how oppressive this experience would feel if I didn't have health insurance. I groaned when I thought about the ambulance bill. I asked the paramedic what it cost—he wouldn't tell me until I insisted. "A ride in one of these babies is about twelve hundred bucks," he said. "But don't worry; your insurance should pay 80%." I laid there wondering, "*How did he know I had insurance? Was it because I was a nicely-dressed gal in a suburban salon?*"

That "ride" to the ER would be devastating to the uninsured. Let's say that the ER bill was \$3000 (not unrealistic). With the \$1200 ambulance fee, we're up to \$4200. Now let's say one pays this off by \$50 per month. That's

84 months of payments—a staggering seven years to pay off this bill... and that's with no interest accruing. Someone check my math—it hardly seems possible. There seems to be this myth circulating that anyone can go to an ER and get treatment, like it's a free clinic. What many people don't know is that you get a bill. If you can't pay it, you face financial ruin. According to the National Coalition on Health Care, 62% of all bankruptcies filed in 2007 were linked to medical expenses.

As I'm writing this, health reform debate is well underway. Each party, special interest group or the guy next door has some proposal for dealing with the health insurance crisis, and the discussions go on. Meanwhile, some 45 million Americans must do complicated numerical gymnastics to decide whether getting a throat culture and antibiotics may require distressing grocery bill trade-offs. Although police and fire departments are publicly funded, ambulance service is not. How many Americans, like me, are counting on their fingers—from inside an ambulance—trying to compute their copays? Worse yet, how many uninsured Americans don't call 911 in time because they're worried about the cost?

In the bumpy ride in the ambulance, my thoughts (after those for my family) were for my hairdresser, Belle. I realized I hadn't paid for my haircut! The next day, I walked back into the hair salon. Belle cried out my name, ran to me and threw her arms around me. I paid for my haircut despite Belle's robust protestations. We've been a team for years. She's the only reason I look presentable, and I adore her. Once again, I was back to being the worrier. I worry about people like Belle. She's the sole support of her family and self-employed—I wonder if she has health insurance?

Epilogue

A few weeks after this event, I was sitting at home, and I heard the phone ring. My husband answered it. He didn't know I could overhear him from the next room. Here is his side of the conversation...

"Hello... [pause] ...oh, could you remove her from your database? This is her husband. You see the last time she gave blood, she dehydrated, went into shock and we almost lost her...yep... [pause] yep...so please take her off your lists...thanks... 'bye.'" I smiled. This is a man who, in 24 years of marriage, has *never* made a decision for me. Looks like he wants to celebrate our 25th. George, it looks as if you're stuck with me. ■

Affiliate Councils News

Changing of the guard

by Richard Sale, ACB President, sale@tarleton.edu and Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D.

From Richard...

Two years ago, I was asked if I would be willing to be nominated as President of the AOC Board. I had heard the term, AOC, and had been to some workshops, but I wasn't really sure what the AOC was or what it did. To my surprise, once I got involved in this group as President of the Board, I found out that I was not the only one confused by some of the terminology. As the Board began to meet and work on our identity, we found that it would be important to change terminology to reflect the purpose of the group.

In the last edition of the *Report*, I outlined many of the changes that occurred as a result of a planning retreat by the AOC Board. I will review those for you. The AOC name, Association of Councils, was changed to ACP, Affiliate Council Presidents. The AOC Board was changed to ACB, Affiliate Councils Board. Hopefully, these terminology changes have been presented enough and explained at the recent NCFR Conference so that members of the affiliates, both state/regional and student, are becoming more comfortable with them.

Following the NCFR Annual Conference, there will be a leadership change on the ACB. This is a result of a two-year rotation of officers. I will become the Past-President. I have certainly enjoyed my two years as President of the Board. At the end of the NCFR Conference, Dr. Chloe Merrill assumed the role of President of the Affiliate Councils Board. In the next paragraph of this article, Dr. Merrill will introduce the new board. So, the ACB will continue to change as new leadership takes office. Also, this will lead to new and exciting changes for the ACB and for the Affiliates. It will take those in all of these organizations to help the State and Student Affiliates both increase in quantity and quality. As a result of these improvements NCFR as a whole will see growth in numbers and effectiveness.

From Chloe...

The new Affiliate Council Board would like to extend appreciation for the service that the past board members have given. As they leave the ACB for new adventures, we wish them well and want them to know that they will be called upon for their expertise in the

future. These members include Marcie Brooke, Ada Alden, and Denise Donnelly.

Richard Sale has done an excellent job these past two years, and we are excited to have him continue on the board this next year as past president. We will continue to complete, modify, and strengthen the strategic plan that was developed in January 2009 for the ACB and plan for the years ahead. To make this happen we need your continued help to guide and direct the Affiliate Council Board in the direction that will best serve all.

To help serve you better I would like to introduce the ACB to you individually.

Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D., CPC, CFCS, CFLE – President. I am a Professor and Chair of the Department of Child and Family Studies in the Jerry and Vickie Moyes College



of Education at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. I have been at Weber State University for 31 years and enjoy teaching, research, and administrative work. I am active in a number of professional organizations. The past two years I have served on the NCFR Board of Directors representing the Affiliate Council Board and enjoyed it immensely. Throughout my career I have served in numerous different positions at the local, state, regional, national and international level within the various professional organizations. I enjoy reading, watching videos, studying new areas of interest, walking, being with friends, and traveling both in and out of the United States. I also love animals and have two cats that really own my home and I just pay the bills.

Minnell Tralle – President-elect and ACB Representative to the NCFR Board of Directors. Minnell has worked as an Extension Educator teaching youth development, leadership development, family relationships and parent education. She was a member of

the teams that authored the *Positive Parenting I & II* and the *Parents Forever: Education for Families in Divorce Transition* curricula. Minnell served as the statewide coordinator of Parents Forever and trains professionals in both curricula. Current work interests include training and curriculum development for the Parents Forever program, evaluation and technology enhanced learning. Minnell is an avid gardener, loves camping, traveling, and spending time with her husband and two adult sons.

Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE – Program Chair. Joanne is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. Her primary research interest is family rituals. She currently is serving as chair-elect of the Religion and Family Life section of NCFR and is also a member of the American Sociological Association, the Texas Council on Family Relations, and the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family. Joanne has been married to her husband, Ray, for 33 years and has three young adult children. Joanne enjoys spending time with her children, gardening, and working with her church on mission projects.

Stephan Brown, Ph.D. – Secretary. Steve is an Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies in the Department of Psychology at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. He has taught at Mansfield University for 35 years. For 15 of these years, Steve has been coordinator of the college's Child & Family Services major and 20 years as a faculty member of the psychology department. He has been an active member of the Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations (MACFR) for 30 years and has served in all the organization's offices, chaired numerous of its committees, and served as the organization's newsletter editor. Currently he is MACFR Treasurer and chairs the Nominations and Elections Committee. Steve also serves on the Building Strong Families Conference Planning Committee. A member of NCFR since 1971, he has served one term as the secretary of the Association of Councils Board. For the past three years, he has acted as the coordinator of student

association of councils continued on page 12



Smart Marriages®

14th Annual Conference
July 8-11, 2010 • Orlando
70 hrs CE!

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

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

Price & CEs awesome! I can't believe all these giants were in one place and so accessible! Steve Rockman, PhD

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

200 TOP presenters • LIVE and In-Person!

Gary Chapman - *The 5 Love Languages*
Howard Markman & Scott Stanley - *PREP 7.0!*

John Gray - *Venus on Fire/Mars on Ice*

Pat Love - *Hot Monogamy: The Sexy Brain*

Esther Perel - *Paradox of Desire*

Harville Hendrix - *IMAGO Dialogue*

Michele Weiner-Davis - *Divorce Busting*

Steve Stosny - *Boot Camp for Emotional Abusers*

Barry McCarthy - *Couple Sexual Style*

Miriam Grossman - *Amanda's 39th Birthday*

Lori Gordon - *Adventures in Marriage*

Kathryn Rheem - *Hold Me Tight: EFT Interventions*

Mark Laaser - *Sex & Porn Addiction*

Bill Doherty - *Becoming Better Husbands*

Frank Fincham - *Low Dose Marriage Education*

John Van Epp - *How to Avoid Falling For A Jerk*

Muhammad & Slack - *The Black Marriage Curriculum*

Francesca Adler-Bader - *Stepping Together*

Sherod Miller - *Couples Communication* • George Doub

- *Family Wellness* • Pat Williams - *Life Coaching for*

Couples • PREPARE/ENRICH & *Couples CheckUp* •

Hedy Schleifer - *Demystifying the Relational Space* • Joe

Beam - *The Love Path* • Heitler - *Power of Two* • Blaine

Fowers - *Shared Goals* • *The Gottman Method* • *Active*

Relationships Military • *Screamfree Parenting* • *Money*

Habitudes • *Marriage & Health Care Reform* • *10 Great*

Dates • *Domestic Violence Protocols* • *World Class*

Marriage • *Mastering the Mysteries of Love* • *7 Stages* •

Controlled Separation • *Within Our Reach* • *Tech Boot*

Camp, Ethics, Research, Funding, Etc!

- see web for full program

Conf \$365 - includes 22 keynotes, 140 workshops,
3 Lunches, Reception, Roundtables, Exhibits, Film Festival
Shingle Creek Resort \$110 S/D!!

30+ Hands-on pre & post training institutes

30% Group Discounts plus student & couple discounts

Up to 70 hrs CE: CFLE, SW, NBCC, LPC, APA, MFT

Download a brochure • Register Online

smartmarriages.com • 202-362-333

affiliate councils continued from page 11

volunteers for the annual NCFR conference. An avid music collector (and occasional performer), he has amassed a large collection of recorded popular music and has served as Mansfield's annual Fabulous 1890's Festival talent coordinator for the past three years.

Amanda Williams, MS - Student/New Professional Representative.

Amanda is a doctoral student and research assistant in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University. She is involved in projects ranging from adolescent and young adult health to family homelessness and resilience. Amanda's spare moments are spent practicing spelling words, playing soccer, or practicing ninja moves with her son and husband. She is excited to begin her second term as S/NP representative with the Affiliate Councils Board.

Angela Jones - Student Affiliate Representative. Angela is currently an undergraduate and graduate student at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. She is pursuing her second Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Development and her Master of Science in Human Sciences-Child and Family. Angela received her first Bachelor of Science in Business-Marketing from Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Angela enjoys doing many different activities outdoors such as skiing, hiking, working out, and playing different sports. She also has a great passion for dancing and children.

Richard Sale, Ph.D. - Past President/Chair, Nominating Committee.

Richard is an Associate Professor of Child and Family Studies at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. He has been in this position for the past 12 years. Richard plans to retire in May 2010 and return to Denton, Texas, to spend time with his family and friends. Richard loves walking in the park, independent films, and traveling. We appreciate Richard for the leadership and service he has given to the ACB the past two years as president.

Please let us know how we can continue to serve you and your affiliate needs. We all look forward to working with you and moving the ACB to new heights. ■

Introducing new NCFR staff member Maureen Bourgeois

We at NCFR are happy to introduce our new co-worker, Maureen Bourgeois. Maureen is the new Administrative Assistant. Her voice is usually the first you will hear when calling NCFR headquarters. Her responsibilities include processing and servicing requests from members and CFLEs. She's the person to call if you have questions about the Annual CFLE Fee, recertification, and upgrading to full certification.



Maureen has lived in Minneapolis all of her life and enjoys spending time kayaking on the lakes and biking or rollerblading on the many paths around the city. She also enjoys traveling around the state visiting relatives, camping, hiking and exploring. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Theatre Arts with a focus on Directing and American Sign Language. She also writes screenplays, short stories and is a performer. Maureen loves working with kids and has taught preschool religious education and worked at a summer camp in Northern Minnesota for four summers.

Maureen is the proud owner of an energetic two-year-old dog named Zaira who has the combined talents of a sled-dog, herder and retriever. Zaira stalks, pulls, chews and is a "very silly little pup." Welcome Maureen! ■

Feminism and Family Studies Section

by Áine Humble, Ph.D., Chair,
aine.humble@msvu.ca

For the final time as Feminism and Family Studies (FF) section chair, I bring you greetings from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. By this time you read this, another successful NCFR conference will be over and a new FF executive in place, including Lisa Taylor, our new and very competent section chair. I look forward to seeing what Lisa and the new executive will plan for us over the next couple of years; I'm sure it will be great!

Meanwhile, it's time to start thinking about the 2010 conference already. One of our very active section members and a former chair (2003-2005), Ramona Faith Oswald, is the 2010 Conference Program Chair, and you can be sure that Ramona has some very interesting, important sessions planned for the conference.

The theme of the 2010 conference is "Families and Innovation." Innovation is about doing things in different ways and thinking about issues in ways that challenge taken for granted conventions. As feminist researchers, innovative thinking has been a big part of our work. Take, for example, the following two points present every year in our section's call for conference submissions:

- Are traditional biases in ways of conceptualizing the study of families challenged?
- Is the topic relevant but not widely considered in the family studies field?

New ways of thinking aren't always accepted initially, but as feminist researchers, we know it's important to keep feminist voices alive and strong, and we do see evidence over time that we are making a difference. We've pushed family scholars to think about families in new ways and continue to do so. We've asked questions about women's lives that previously weren't being asked. We've sought out new ways of asking our questions. Our section is, thus, well placed to contribute to the 2010 conference. Consider what innovative feminist research, programs, and applications you can include in your submissions. Think about the feminist goals or purposes of thinking innovatively about families. And consider the implications for families' lives of *not* being innovative.... We look forward to receiving your submissions! ■

News from the Minnesota Council on Family Relations

Fall conference - **Reality Check: Work and Family in a 24/7 World**, December 4, 2009 in St. Paul, Minnesota

by Rose Allen, MCFR President, allen027@umn.edu

We are excited about our recent conference, December 4, in St. Paul. Brenda Bass, Ph. D., of the University of Northern Iowa, was our keynote speaker to start the discussion of work and family as it relates to the world we live in today. Brenda's work in the family life education field is based on a strengths and resiliency perspective. For more information go to www.mcfr.net

New and improved website –www.mcfr.net.

We are pleased to announce our newly designed website – last year we embarked on a “face lift” for our state affiliate and now have a graphic and color scheme for all our print and electronic communication. The website is intended as a resource for members and a place for those curious about our state affiliate to get information about resources, activities and membership. This site is also being hosted on the NCFR web server. We look forward to tapping the expertise of Jason Samuels, the NCFR tech guru, in using new technologies to connect with our community.

Professional training

Fitting Families into Policies, Outcomes & Results: The Family Impact Checklist.

Because policy impacts families, the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Family Consortium (CYFC), along with the Minnesota Council on Family Relations (MCFR), offered training for practitioners on how to use the Family Impact Checklist on October 1, 2009, at the Minnesota State Capitol.

This training introduced the Family Impact Checklist and how to use it to analyze the intended and unintended consequences on families of policies made at the national, state and local level. MCFR believes that the voice of family professionals is important in the development of policy and the Family Impact Checklist is a great tool to use when communicating with policymakers.

Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Life Educators. A team of MCFR members revised this tool and will be offering regional trainings for Minnesota family professionals in 2010. The booklet is available for download on our web site www.mcfr.net and printed copies are available for purchase. ■

Religion and Family Life Section News

by Dr. Joe Wilmoth, JWilmoth@humansci.msstate.edu.

It was wonderful to see so many section members in San Francisco last November! The presentations made in paper sessions, posters, and a roundtable were exceptional —they represented a broad range of interesting, informative research going on in the area of religion and family. Thanks to all who shared their work with conference attendees!

There were a record number of submissions in the Religion and Family section last year! Looking forward to the conference next fall in Minneapolis, please consider submitting a proposal. Specific guidelines for proposals can be found on line at ncfr.org; if you have further questions, please contact me at JWilmoth@humansci.msstate.edu. ■

2010 Annual Conference

November 2-6, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Families and Innovation

Ramona Faith Oswald, Ph.D., Conference Program Chair



Awards to members and other scholars and practitioners in family-related areas are an important part of the work of NCFR. As an organization, we congratulate these deserving recipients for awards presented in 2009.

You are encouraged to nominate and to apply for NCFR awards. Most awards involve recognition at the annual conference, a cash award or travel stipend, and a plaque. Included in this issue of NCFR Report is the awards brochure and nomination/application form. Note the May 1 deadline for awards to be presented in 2010 (some awards are biannual).



Rio Hirayama



Amy K. Brainer

Jessie Bernard Awards

Rio Hirayama, Amy K. Brainer

Rio Hirayama received the Jessie Bernard Outstanding Proposal from a Feminist Perspective Award, which recognizes a graduate student/new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to feminist scholarship. He is a research and teaching assistant and doctoral candidate at Oregon State University. His proposal: *Transforming Social Relations: How Caregiving Sons 'Do' Gender Subversively*.

Amy K. Brainer was named recipient of the Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award. This award recognizes a graduate student/new professional who has published or is about to publish a paper using feminist frameworks and methodologies in research. Her paper is entitled "*Being Straight is Not a Choice*": *Essentialism and Identity De/Construction Among Heterosexual Siblings of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth*.

Both these awards are given in memory of Jessie Bernard, former NCFR Board Member and pioneer in the field of Feminist Family Studies. ■

Awards 2009

NCFR Student Award

Spencer B. Olmstead

The 2009 NCFR Student award recipient is Spencer Olmstead, a doctoral candidate in the marriage and family therapy program in the Department of Family and Child Sciences at Florida State University.

Criteria for the annual NCFR Student Award include enrollment in a graduate program; work that demonstrates promise of significant contribution to family studies; and NCFR membership. Supporting materials must demonstrate research underway about an important problem in the field and possible steps toward solution.

"My research focuses on men's health in general and specifically on men's sexual and reproductive health and fathering," says Spencer. As a member of Project RELATE, a five-year federally funded relationship education intervention aimed at developing a national model for college students, he works under the supervision of Kay Pasley and Frank Fincham collecting

qualitative data to explore students' expectations about unplanned pregnancy, contraceptive discussion and use, and men's visions and expectations for future fatherhood.

"Clinically, I engage in individual, couple, and relationship therapy at the Center for Couple and Family Therapy at the University, where the education and training of MFT doctoral students occurs," says Spencer. "I focused my work with couples experiencing a variety of relationship problems, as well as men with anger management and emotional expression issues."

Olmstead received a B.S. in sociology and psychology from Brigham Young University in 2004. In 2006 he received an M.Ed. in Counseling, Family, & Human Services, with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy, from the University of Oregon. ■



Spencer Olmstead

Marie Peters Award

Francisco A. Villarruel

"The Marie Peters Award Committee had the privilege of reviewing the credentials of several outstanding candidates for the 2009 award," says committee chair Leonor Boulton Johnson. This year's recipient is Dr. Francisco A. Villarruel, Michigan State University.

In the award letter, Dr. Johnson wrote, "Your commitment to the advancement of ethnic families helps all families who seek a public voice for their private challenges."

Through the Marie Peters Award, she continue, Dr. Villarruel's colleagues recognize his significant contribution in the areas of leadership and mentorship within the Ethnic Minorities Section and NCFR, community and professional service, and policy scholarship that impacts the lives of minority youth, particularly those in the Hispanic community.

The award is presented by the Ethnic Minorities Section in memory of Marie F. Peters,

past board member of NCFR, a chair of the Ethnic Minorities Section, leader in socializing ethnic minorities into professional organizations, Harvard scholar, and pioneer in research on socialization, stress, and development of children in ethnic families, particularly those within the Black community.

Dr. Villarruel is a professor in the Department of Family and Child Ecology at Michigan State and Acting Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute. As part of a 2009 Annual Conference special session, he gave the Marie Peters Award Address, "Scholar Activists: Contributions of Family Science to Social Justice and Public Policy." ■



Francisco Villarruel

Reuben Hill Award

Sarah Meadows, Sara McLanahan,
Jeanne Brooks-Gunn

The Reuben Hill Award, sponsored by the Research and Theory Section, is presented annually to the author(s) of the best research article from the previous year (2008). The award is given in recognition of the outstanding publication that combines theory and methodology in the analysis and interpretation of a significant family issue.

This year's recipients are Sarah Meadows, Sara McLanahan, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn for their article "Stability and Change in Family Structure and Maternal Health Trajectories," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 73, 314-334.

"This article addressed two questions that have important theoretical and policy implications," says Paul Amato, Chair, Reuben

Hill Award Committee. "First, do mothers with different family structure histories have different health trajectories?

Second, do the effects of family change on health fade or accumulate over time?"

The research was grounded in two clearly delineated theoretical perspectives—a resource accumulation perspective and a chronic strain perspective, says Amato. The authors used a growth curve analysis to reveal support for the crisis but not the resource accumulation perspective. "Overall, this article is an outstanding example of combining theory and sophisticated research methods to answer questions of major interest to



Sarah Meadows



Sara McLanahan



Jeanne Brooks-Gunn

family scholars and to advance the field of family studies."

Sarah Meadows, Ph.D., is Associate Behavioral/Social Scientist with Rand. Sarah McLanahan, Ph.D., is the William S. Tod Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University, and Director, Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Princeton. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Ph.D. is the Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Child Development at Teachers College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. ■

Ernest G. Osborne Award Recipient

Ramona Faith Oswald



Ramona Faith Oswald

The Education and Enrichment Section of the National Council on Family Relations is pleased to announce the **2009 Ernest G. Osborne Award** winner. A committee of distinguished family professionals selected Dr. Ramona Oswald to receive this award

in recognition of her outstanding leadership and excellence in the teaching of family relationships. The award is given in memory of Ernest G. Osborne, three-time president of NCFR and an outstanding family life educator at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

Dr. Oswald is Associate Professor of Family Studies in the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Oswald is recognized for her outstanding contributions to the Department of Human and Community Development, inside and outside

Cindy Winter Scholarship Award

Lyndal Bee Lian Khaw

Recipient of the 2009 Cindy Winter Scholarship Award is Lyndal Bee Lian Khaw, a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an active NCFR member, journal article author, and previous award winner.

The Cindy Winter Award, named for NCFR's Conference Director, 1964-2007, is given biannually to a student or new professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership or service in family studies or a related area. Even after her retirement, Cindy continues to serve NCFR as a consultant in conference planning.

Lyndal has occupied several leadership positions including service as Secretary, Vice President and President in the Illinois Student Council on Family Relations (ISCFR). She has coordinated and co-organized several fundraisers, service activities and professional meetings, including the Illinois Council on Family Relations' (ICFR) conference in 2006. She was just elected as the 2009-2011 Secretary/Treasurer of the Feminism and Family Studies section of NCFR.

Lyndal's teaching involvement has promoted the visibility of NCFR among

undergraduate students in her classes. She is included on the university's *List of Teachers Rated as Excellent* and most recently received the 2009 Louis V. Logeman Graduate Student Teaching Award and the 2009 North

American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Graduate Teaching Award.

As a scholar, Lyndal's research focuses on the dynamics of intimate partner violence on families. Her dissertation work explores abused mothers' perceptions of changing family boundaries and the impact on their process of leaving. With her advisor and coauthor, Dr. Jennifer Hardesty, her research has been published in NCFR's *Family Relations* and the first edition of the *Journal of Family Theory and Review*.

She received the 2007 Jessie Bernard Award for Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective from NCFR and the 2008 Pampered Chef Dissertation Enhancement Award for her research activities. ■



Lyndal Bee Lian Khaw

osborne award continued on back page

in this issue:

**Family Focus on...
Poverty**

elections council *continued from page 4*

- Knowledge and/or experience with policy governance and the development of ENDS policies.
- Knowledge and/or experience in leadership roles through Sections, Affiliate Councils, Elections Council, Conference planning, publishing, public policy or other committee work.
- Diversity in race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender, age, physical ability or religion.
- Diversity of geographic location.
- Diversity in educational training.
- Diversity in employment and/or professional settings; and
- Specific characteristics identified by the Board of Directors and charged to the Elections Council before the call for nominations is developed and circulated.

Keeping these criteria in mind, we invite self-nominations or nominations of others for the following positions for the next slate of candidates to be elected in February of 2011. The terms for these positions will begin November 2011 at the end of the annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

President-elect 2011-2013

(President 2013-2015)

The President-elect shall assist the President and in the event of the President's absence, incapacitation, resignation or death, the President's duties (general management of the business of the NCFR Board) shall devolve upon the President-elect.

Board Member-at-Large 2011-2014

(three positions open)

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

Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect 2011-2012

The Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect serves a one-year term as a non-voting member of the Board. After serving their one-year term this position will move to the position of Student/New

Professional Board Representative and serves a two-year term as a voting member of the Board of Directors. During their one-year term, the S/NP Board Representative-Elect will learn about the organization and their roles as the future S/NP Board Representative by shadowing and assisting the current S/NP Board Representative and S/NP Program Representative.

Conference Program Chair-elect 2011-2012

(Program Chair for 2013 Conference)

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

Elections Council Members 2011-2014

(two positions open)

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

Again, become involved in leadership positions of our organization. Consider what your involvement will be. Send nominations to Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. For additional information, please review our website, www.ncfr.org. Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2010. ■

osborne award *continued from page 15*

the classroom, as well as her contributions to the field of family studies. Most notably, she has worked to successfully recruit outstanding minority students, developed a systematic review of all graduate students in her department, improved the qualifying exam process, made significant contributions to the teaching of social science methodology, and continues to provide students with opportunities for engaging with human diversity and experiential learning. As one of her nominees notes she is "the leading scholar in LGBT family studies." The Education and Enrichment section is honored to present this award to Dr. Oswald. ■