

In this issue:

Research and Theory

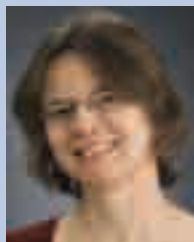
pages F1 – F20

In this issue of *NCFR Report*, we are going to underscore our logo's tagline "catalyzing research, theory and practice" completely. Its authors are some of NCFR's most respected researchers, including two of our journal editors. Research and theory will come alive as you read how other expert researchers have taken their studies and applied them to the media and public policy.

Watch for the next issue of *NCFR Report*... it's the "Best of Report," an anthology of outstanding articles from the Family Focus section that you will want to review again and again. Compiled by co-editors Nancy Gonzalez and Alexis Walker, this 40-page issue of your member magazine will be one you will want to keep. So, be sure not to let your membership lapse this fall; the print run and distribution will be limited.



Why I attend the NCFR Conference



**Ramona Faith
Oswald, Ph.D.**

**Ramona Faith
Oswald, Ph.D.,
2010 Conference
Program Chair**

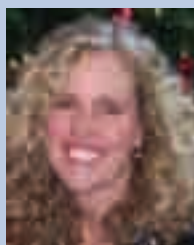
The first NCFR session that I ever attended was the Impassioned Teaching symposium in Baltimore, 1993.

The room was packed;

I sat on the floor wondering what to expect. By the end of the session I had identified NCFR as my "home," a place where I could be mentored as a researcher and a teacher.

What impressed me most was the clear commitment to research-based teaching about all families—not just the so called "normative" ones—and the willingness of my NCFR colleagues to creatively and respectfully pursue this value.

As this year's Program Chair, my selection of Plenaries and Special Sessions has been guided by what I consider to be a core NCFR value: translational research about diverse family experiences.



**Cassandra Dorius,
Ph.D.**

**Cassandra Dorius,
2010 Ph.D. graduate,
Penn State University;
S/NP Program
Representative-Elect**

One of the best parts of being affiliated with NCFR is the opportunity to get to know students, faculty, and

practitioners from around the country who are interested in cutting edge ideas and

interventions related to family life. At the conference there are opportunities to have lunch with the leaders in our field, attend networking sessions, and listen to excellent presentations that get you excited about your own work.

In addition, the Student/New Professional sessions have been critical in preparing me for the job market and for the transition from student to faculty. I think that NCFR is the most practical and effective conference I attend. I wouldn't miss it!



**Ronald Sabatelli,
Ph.D.**

**Ronald Sabatelli,
Ph.D., CFLE, Editor,
Family Relations**

There are so many reasons why I have attended the NCFR conference over the last 35 years. I find the experience of attending the conference "energizing" as it brings me into

contact with people who share my research, teaching and service interests. I gain knowledge from the presentations I attend and, as importantly, I am inspired by the "informal learning opportunities" I am exposed to as a result of socializing and conversing with colleagues from around the world. As my professional roles over the years have changed and expanded, the conference has provided me with opportunities to meet and recruit job candidates for faculty positions and to learn about the cutting edge research being done by scholars for possible inclusion in *Family Relations*. ■

2010 Annual Conference

November 3-6, 2010
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Register now! www.ncfr.org

Love the book? Don't miss the movie!

Why I attend the NCFR Annual Conference video clips from the 2009 conference are on YouTube. Go to http://www.ncfr.org/conf/current/conf_video.asp

Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

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

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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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Why I attend the NCFR Annual Conference Why you should attend the NCFR Annual Conference

Something for everyone

Twenty major sessions

Topics like family policy and the changing American family, parenting effectiveness and whether gender matters, funding for research, intersexuality, leadership skills, families and social media, healing from torture, religion and family formation, innovative resources in family life education, the future of family science, PTSD and working with veterans... and that's just a sampling.

What you'll do

Network with peers, learn from the best, exchange ideas and best practices, build professional skills, earn CEUs, explore career fields and degree options.

What a group!

The NCFR Annual Conference attracts professionals from social research, teaching, practice, policy analysis, and human services: leading demographers and researchers; college faculty and administrators; family educators; marriage and family therapists; social workers; University extension specialists; health professionals; program and curriculum developers; early childhood educators; clergy; and graduate and undergraduate students.

More than just sessions

The Twin Cities offer everything you could want in arts and culture, leisure and nightlife, and sight-seeing and shopping, including the only two-story Target and the famous Mall

of America (easy to get to via the Hiawatha Line light rail transit).

Our conference venue is the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers—conveniently located downtown where you can get almost everywhere via enclosed skyway; reasonably priced (\$157 conference rate); close to restaurant choices ranging from fast food to fine dining.

A night at the museum...the 2010 Annual Conference includes an evening at the Walker Art Center. Participate in a guided tour and/or art lab project (\$15) or do a self-tour of the exhibits (free). Bus transportation provided.

Little Mogadishu...the Twin Cities is home to the largest Somali population in the United States. A pre-conference event, Immersion into East African Cultures, focuses on the immigration challenges to families and includes lunch at a local restaurant and shopping at a Somali mall. ■



Coming themes in NCFR Report

Spring 2011—**Couples**—deadline 12-21-2010

Summer 2011—**the Transition to Parenthood**—deadline 3-21-2011

Fall 2011—**Intergenerational Relationships**—deadline 6-21-2011

Interested in submitting something? Request the submission guidelines by writing nancygonzalez@ncfr.org



Increasing our accountability

by Gary L. Bowen, NCFR President, gibowen@email.unc.edu

I had the pleasure in early June of hosting the NCFR Board of Directors in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, for our summer Board meeting. Diane Cushman, Jeanne Strand, and Charlie Cheesebrough from the NCFR staff also attended the meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know Charlie, one of NCFR's newest staff members, who directs membership and marketing. We met at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education, which is located on the outskirts of the University of North Carolina (UNC) campus and focused on the needs of adult learners. William Friday served as president of UNC for 30 years; his wife, Ida, has a master's degree in public health from UNC and is a painter and sculptor. Both are exemplary examples of lives devoted to advancing the human condition and the public good. Inspiration from the Friday's lives provided me with a solid foundation from which to launch the Board retreat.

On the second and third day of our retreat, Dr. Dennis Orthner, an NCFR Fellow and Legacy Circle member, led a strategic planning session with the Board on the Ends of the organization. NCFR's *Board Policy Governance Handbook* (June 2009) is divided into Ends and Means policies. As stated in the Handbook, "End policies describe the Board's expectations about (a) the benefit, difference or outcome that the organization is to produce; (b) the persons for whom the difference is to

be made; and (c) the cost or relative worth of the benefit" (p. i). Means policies address the strategies and activities for achieving the Ends. In the Handbook, End policies receive one page of attention; the remaining 42 pages are Mean policies. You may already begin to understand the issue of concern.

Like many other organizations, including academic departments and public and private service agencies, NCFR's Means policies are far more explicit than its Ends policies. Without explicit Ends with associated metrics for monitoring, the Board's accountability of the Executive Director is constrained and the Board's attention drifts toward an activity focus rather than a results focus. Consequently, the Board whom the membership elects to ensure the organization's accountability stands on a weak foundation from which to govern.

Like many tasks, the Board quickly discovered why more attention had not been given to End policies—it's hard work. Dennis began his work with the Board by referencing selected quotes from the Handbook that: (a) reinforced the major policy responsibility of the Board for the intended long-term effects of organization, and (b) demonstrated the Handbook's primary focus on means-goals rather than ends-goals for members. He subsequently summarized a results-management process for addressing the task at hand, which "gives attention to the needs of specific membership groups; focuses on end-goals first, then

means-goals; encourages the use of metrics to assess progress toward goals; follows a disciplined logic model approach with an implied theory of change; builds on a strategic planning development model; and promotes organizational learning." The overall objective of the planning process was to "strengthen NCFR as a capacity-building membership organization (within the guidelines of the organization mission)."

Wow! It is just unbelievable how much we were able to accomplish in a day and a half. Much of our progress can be attributed to Dennis's effective organization and leadership style. I just finished summarizing the notes from the four working groups and forwarding them to the participants, including Dennis, for review and comment. A key question is where do we go from here and what is the strategy for completing this work, including a performance timeline. Importantly, we are going to need input from NCFR members and key stakeholder groups. The good news is that we have started the process; the challenging news is how much work remains to be done.

In the next President's Report, I will provide an update on the work at hand. In November, we will have three directors rotating off the Board (Deb Berke, Glen Palm, and Soyoung Lee) and three new members joining the Board (Jennifer Hardesty, Maureen Perry-Jenkins, and Andrew Behnke). To help ensure continuity in our strategic planning efforts around the Ends of NCFR, the three new Board members will join the Board for its August, September, and October Board Conference calls. I invite your involvement as NCFR members in this strategic planning process by contacting me or any other Board member directly, and we will plan to engage focus groups with participants at the 2010 Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

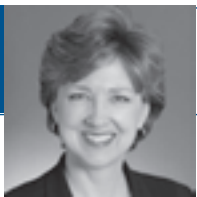
Thanks for your membership in NCFR—please know that your Board of Directors is working hard to increase the accountability of the organization to you—its members.

May peace be with you and your family. ■

Thank you donors

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

Madeleine Alberts	Nancy Kingsbury	Roy Rotz
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	Lane Powell	



The day our summer changed

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

This was a summer of initiatives and milestones, and we have much to report.

We're starting an NCFR book club. Staff member Nancy Gonzalez will convene the discussion. You can join from anywhere in the world via Skype. All books used will be written by NCFR members and the author will join for the last portion of the meeting. Stay tuned to Zippy News for all of these announcements. We intend to discuss two or three books per year.

The NCFR Facebook page reached 1,000 members in early August. Registration for the 2010 annual conference is a month ahead of last year with over 500 signed up to attend. And our website project is on schedule – you'll have a chance to see the test site in November.

Your NCFR administrative offices moved in July. We are quickly settling in, enjoying the neighbors and the neighborhood, and adjusting to our new commutes.

So much happening. Yet on Thursday, August 12, for a few hours, everything came to a screeching halt.

Cindy Winter, our "longtime and now retired but still working for us" conference academic program consultant showed up unexpectedly at the office, gathered us all together, and shared the shocking news that Maxine Hammonds-Smith had died just a few hours earlier. We sat in silence around our new conference table. Then we shared our stories of the last time each of us had talked to Maxine – some as recent as a couple of weeks as she chaired the selection committee for the inaugural Felix Berardo mentoring award.

She never let on.

Maxine was on the search committee that hired me in December 2006. Pam Monroe passed the NCFR president's gavel to her in November 2007, and together Maxine and I navigated our way through a rebuilding period for NCFR. We worked well together. She trusted me. I trusted her. We knew we

both wanted the same things for NCFR. We had complementary strengths. We helped each other. Together and with the help of the NCFR staff, board members and volunteers, we put NCFR back on track. She gave the staff a crystal saxophone last November as she ended her term as president. Etched in the glass – "Appreciation to NCFR Staff."

Under Maxine's leadership, a new Diversity and Inclusion Committee was created. She knew the value of embracing differences of all types.

Never to be caught unprepared, Maxine implemented a new practice for monthly board meetings that is still used today by President Gary Bowen. A couple of days before the scheduled meeting, Jeanne Strand, our manager of governance and operations, me, and Maxine would review the agenda, check the status of the board policy governance reports, and ensure that we could get the most out of every meeting of the board of directors. In hindsight, those calls were precious glimpses into how Maxine mulled over issues, developed a course of action, and moved the agenda forward.

From the first one-on-one meeting I had with Maxine over breakfast at the 2007 conference in Pittsburgh it was evident that her heart was all in – NCFR and CFLE. She saw that researchers and the practitioners were in the same room, talking to each other, learning from each other, so that families could benefit from the wisdom and knowledge of all of you. She was at the helm when NCFR created its new identity and recommitted to being a multidisciplinary professional association with a mission to understand and strengthen families.

Maxine's commitment to those new to the field was equaled by her respect of the people who came before and were in retirement yet still had contributions to make to families and to NCFR. In preparation for the 2008 conference in Little Rock, Maxine created the Presidential Medallion which

was awarded to every past NCFR president at the President's Reception in the Arkansas governor's mansion.

Maxine defined class. She had style. She had grace. But most of all, she had heart and love for all of you, her NCFR family. This issue of *Report* is dedicated to the memory of Maxine Hammonds-Smith, National Council on Family Relations President, 2007-2009. ■

Southeastern Council announces conference

Please make plans to join the members and friends of the Southeastern Council on Family Relations, March 3-4, 2011, at what promises to be an invigorating annual conference in Birmingham, Alabama. Confirmed speakers include Steve Duncan, Rozario Slack, H. Wallace (Wally) Goddard, Nisa Muhammad, and Kay Pasley. The theme of the conference is "We Shall Overcome: Changing the Status Quo for Families in the Southeast," a timely theme that focuses attention on the need for positive change in our region which lags considerably behind the rest of the nation on most important social indicators.

In addition to a full slate of outstanding speakers, the latest research and current thinking being generated by professionals around the Southeast will be presented and there will be multiple opportunities for socializing, networking, and earning CEUs. Professionals of all varieties – not just academics – are invited to participate.

For more details about the conference, submissions, registration, as well as all the great things to do and see around the Magic City, please visit our website www.secfr.net or contact the conference/program chair Kim Allen at kimberly_allen@ncsu.edu. We hope to see you in Birmingham! ■

Family Studies Section

by Tammy Harpel, Ph.D., Chair, harpelt@latech.edu

Greetings! The NCFR Annual Conference is just weeks away, and I want to call your attention to the Family Science activities on the conference program schedule. To begin, I am very excited that the Family Science section is sponsoring two special sessions at the conference. Join us for *The Future of Family Science: Innovative Paths Forward* on Friday, November 5, 2 to 3:30 pm. During this session, Raeann Hamon, Bahira Sherif Trask, and Mary Ann Hollinger, will focus on the state of the family science discipline and discuss innovations that have been used successfully to strengthen and grow family science programs. If your university is faced with restructuring, budget cuts, pressure for accountability, etc., this is one session you do not want to miss!

Have you ever wondered if you were legally allowed to post materials to a class site? Has technology produced dilemmas about intellectual property and/or copyright? If so, mark your calendar for the session titled *Intellectual Rights and Responsibilities: Lawful Use of the Work of Others* on Saturday, November 6, 12:15 to 1:45 pm. Karen Brennan of Winthrop & Weinstein Attorneys at Law will present this highly relevant and timely session.

The Family Science section is also sponsoring two paper sessions with themes similar to the aforementioned special sessions. Three papers will be presented during the *Future of Family Science: Past, Present and Future*, Wednesday November 3, 3:45 to 5:15 pm. Attend this paper session to learn about the interesting history of the naming of family science programs, using program review as a tool for program improvement, and the continuing need for program innovation.

On Thursday, 3:45 to 5:15 p.m., three papers will be presented during the session titled *Virtual Reach: Teaching Family Science Online*. Papers in this session will focus on implementing online degree programs, conducting classes via technology during weather-related university closures, and incorporating principles of effective education into online courses. It may be hard to believe, but there is more! The Family Science section is also co-sponsoring a number of paper sessions with other sections, and sponsoring several poster sessions and one roundtable. I encourage you to search through the

conference program and plan to attend the various Family Science presentations and sessions.

Finally, I hope you will attend the Family Science Business Meeting which is scheduled for Friday, 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. We will present the Wesley Burr Student Paper Award to this year's recipient. All students who were first author of a paper or poster accepted specifically by the Family Science section for this year's conference, and who

are members of NCFR and the Family Science section, are eligible to enter the competition. Email notifications were sent to eligible students during the summer. Advisors and mentors, if one of your students was invited to participate in the competition, please encourage them to submit their paper by the deadline of Oct. 1. If they need additional information about the award, they can contact me at harpelt@latech.edu.

I look forward to seeing you in November!

News from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Affiliate

by Alicia Gaede, President, Alicia.M.Gaede@uwsp.edu

The student chapter University Council on Family Relations, affiliate of National Council on Family Relations, at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has many opportunities throughout the school year for the students. We have been able to attend the NCFR Annual Conference in November through our student budget with the Student Government Association. Other activities would consist of fundraisers, guest speaker evenings, business meetings, and volunteer opportunities.

This past school year (2009-2010) we had one additional event that we put together, organized, and accomplished: The First International Student Conference held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin April 29-May 1, 2010. We had many people come from UW-Stevens Point (UWSP), UW-Stout, and a couple other campuses, along with our international student from Canada. There were wonderful guest speakers and the use of Skype to bring in a speaker. One session was the speed networking which is a way to get to know all the professionals and peers during this fast-paced, action-packed mentoring session with all the conference speakers as well as UWSP profes-

sors. There were a variety of topics including international outreach, the behind-the-scenes look at applying for graduate school or your next job, research topics, and local outreach. Our guest speakers were Amy Wiza, Sam Dinga, Meg Karraker, Jami Kaiser, and Geoff Steurer, and our keynote speaker was Dr. Scott Ketrings. Our thanks to all the participants.

We look forward to seeing you all at the NCFR Annual Conference in November in Minneapolis. We are hoping to bring 31 students. And along with the NCFR Annual Conference, we look forward to seeing you during the spring semester of the school year 2010-2011 for our Second International Student Conference. ■





CFLE celebrates 25th Anniversary in November

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

Back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, a dedicated group of members of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) gathered together for a series of meetings to develop and implement a certification program for family life educators.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) program. In recognition of this important milestone, NCFR is planning a special dinner celebration during the 2010 Annual Conference in Minneapolis. While the CFLE Reception is typically only open to active CFLEs, everyone is invited to attend this year's celebratory event.

The CFLE program has achieved great success. There are currently over 1,650 active Certified Family Life Educators, and nearly 120 university and colleges with NCFR-approved degree programs that include the CFLE content. The profession of family life education has grown in recognition and value due to the existence of the CFLE program.

The CFLE dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 3 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We'll be recognizing those who have contributed to the success of the CFLE designation over the years and displaying materials representing the history of the program. While there is a cost for the dinner, it is subsidized through the generosity of a number of sponsors and supporters. Sponsorship levels are available at the Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) and Bronze (\$100) levels. If you are interested in being a sponsor or supporter of the CFLE 25th Anniversary Dinner, contact me at dawncassidy@ncfr.org or by calling 763-231-2882.

In addition to celebrating the success of the CFLE program, we will also be launching the latest version of the **Family Life Education Framework**. Editors **David Bredehoft**,

Ph.D., CFLE and **Michael Walcheski, Ph.D., CFLE**, both of Concordia University in St. Paul, MN gathered input on a revision of the framework through the CFLE listserv and a face-to-face focus group held in April (see photos below). The latest rendition will be unveiled and displayed at the CFLE event.

Family Life Educators attending the NCFR conference will want to be sure to attend the special session **Innovative Family Life Education Practices: A Resource Exchange**.

This session will provide an opportunity to network with others, share FLE-related ideas, and come away with fresh ideas that can be used in FLE work! This special session is composed of roundtables on relevant FLE topics. Attendees can visit all five or just those that are of particular interest to them.

The NCFR Conference promises to provide many opportunities to celebrate the CFLE program and the profession of family life education! ■



Clockwise from upper right: Dr. David Bredehoft discusses the FLE methodology portion of the framework with Jan McCulloch, Joan Comeau, Leanne Sponsel and Elizabeth Onger. Karen Shirer and Kathleen Helgeson review the later adulthood portion of the framework. Dr. Michael Walcheski looks on as Mary Kay Stranik and Nancy Kaczrowski share their feedback regarding coverage of parenting education. Sue Towley and Sharon Powell work on the early childhood section of the framework.

cfle



How a theory is born: a conversation with Pauline Boss

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

Pauline Boss is one of NCFR's most decorated scholars—she is an NCFR Fellow and one of our past presidents. She has been awarded our prestigious Ernest Burgess Award which is given for a career of outstanding scholarly achievement in studying families. She is world-renowned and in much demand as an expert on grief, loss and trauma. In the spirit of full disclosure, I wasn't just the interviewer for this article. I'll admit to being her unabashed fan. I admire so many family scholars, but there is just a handful whose work has affected me or my family as profoundly as Pauline's.

Pauline gave voice to a unique type of loss; one for which, as she describes, no greeting

card is available. Just months before I read her 1999 book, *Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief*, my husband and I lost a child under rare circumstances and in a manner that typically goes unacknowledged by others. A family friend and scholar, upon hearing of our loss, sent us a copy of Pauline's book. It was as if we had been living in a dark cell and someone led us to a window. My husband and I struggled for words to describe the loss, even to each other. We had no hope of expecting understanding from anyone else. I hadn't gotten very far into her book when I had the thought, "This is us!" And then I thought, "She has discovered another 'problem that had no name!'"

Briefly, an ambiguous loss is one in which a loved one is either physically present but psychologically absent (such as with a parent with dementia) or one who is physically absent but psychologically present (such as an estranged family member). Because these losses are outside the common human experience, families don't know what to do with their anguish. When these families hear that they "need to move on," it compounds their grief by adding shame. They appear "stuck" at best. At worst, others may imply (or families may assume) that their response is pathological. Most of the time, these families are normal and resilient, but they are living under excruciating circumstances. The sufferers aren't "ill"; it's the context that is pathological.

Particularly painful is the pop psychology idea that these grieving families need to seek "closure." This concept is oft-repeated on talk show sofas. The general public has picked it up, and now it's in everyday use. Pauline found through her research and practice that in these ambiguous situations, closure is not possible nor even therapeutically advisable. There are some losses that one will never simply "get over." The resilient and healthy way to mastery is "learning to live with unresolved grief," (the subtitle of her book) and finding meaning in ambiguity itself.

Last spring I sat down with Pauline in her office in St. Paul, MN, to have a conversation not just about ambiguous loss itself as much as family theory development in a more general way. What I was seeking were questions to a couple of questions, namely: "How was your theory born?", and "What would you say to junior colleagues in NCFR—perhaps graduate students—who are wondering if their interest in family studies might be calling them into a career as a theorist?" She was generous with her time and eager to lend her mentoring advice.

Pauline's Theory of Ambiguous Loss began without a name when she was a Ph.D. student in a graduate school sociology course taught

report from minneapolis continued on page 8



Pauline Boss, Ph.D.



Our NCFR family

Stephen Gavazzi with his son, John. Stephen is a family scholar and researcher at The Ohio State University.

Welcome to "Our NCFR Family," a new segment for *NCFR Report*. Stephen Gavazzi is our first featured member. You are encouraged to submit a contribution to "Our NCFR Family." Requirements and details are outlined below.

- The photo must include an active NCFR member.
- In addition to the member, there must be an additional family member, friend, or pet in the picture.
- Every person/pet must be identified by name and relationship to the member.
- For non-adult subjects, written permission of parents is required.
- Submission of the photo constitutes permission to use the photo in Report and all other NCFR communications media.
- Photos must be submitted as high-resolution color jpg files. If the segment runs in the Family Focus section of NCFR Report, it will be converted to black and white.
- Offer any additional background that explains the photo (special context, location, timing, etc). You may offer a suggested caption of about 15 words. Or NCFR staff can assist; just submit a brief explanatory paragraph with details. NCFR staff then will edit and prepare the copy that accompanies this photo, which may not be subject to prior approval.
- Because of space limitations, not all submissions can be included. Submissions, however, will be included in the "Our NCFR Family" photo album" online as part of the NCFR website.
- NCFR editorial staff reserve the right to decline acceptance of submissions at their sole discretion.

Submit photos (as attachments) and text to Charlie Cheesebrough or contact him with questions: charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org

by Gerald Hage at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was a theorist himself. She loved that class. His assignment for the students was to develop some kind of organizational theory — Pauline chose “the family” as her organization of study. She had been writing about “psychological father absence” — a concept that she had begun to observe in her studies with her Ph.D. committee member, family therapist Carl Whitaker, also in Madison. Back in the early 1970s, when she was studying family therapy, she was discovering that in a large number of families, she was seeing fathers who were present physically, but many of them were absent emotionally. As the daughter of a nurturing father herself, Pauline knew what it was like to have a father very present in her life. The fathers she was observing maintained that the children were their mother’s concern, not theirs. For Gerald Hage’s class, she wrote a paper on this type of family — one that was structurally intact, but one in which the fathers were psychologically disengaged. She subsequently presented her paper, “Psychological Father Absence in Intact Families” for the first time at the 1973 NCFR conference in Toronto.

I was delighted to hear that NCFR was the first audience for her ideas, and I asked her to describe the experience. “It changed my life,” she said. This was her first paper session as a graduate student, and she expected a light turnout. She was told “don’t worry; there will be only 6 or 8 people there.” There were almost 100 people in attendance. “It caught me off guard,” she said. “I was really scared.” The feedback was very strong; many approached her after her presentation to tell her some version of “you’re onto something.” The military researchers in the audience, Edna Hunter and Hamilton McCubbin, approached her and said, “You have the theory we need; we have the data you can use.” They had data on all of the military families of the Vietnam era who had a family member missing in action (MIA). In this case, the families were living with a physical father absence—the other type of family loss. They invited her to do her dissertation research with them. With this rich dataset, her theory had a place to be tested.

After the successful NCFR session, she went back to Gerald Hage who, in expert mentor fashion, told her, “raise your idea to a higher theoretical level—it’s about more than absent fathers.” She thought about it for a while and then realized that the issue was about any kind of loss in which someone is

“there—but not there.” The term and the theory of ambiguous loss were born.

Her first article on ambiguous loss was published in an unusual way. Although her paper was wildly successful at the NCFR conference, when she submitted it to a journal, it was rejected because she did not have enough data yet. It found a home elsewhere. Using the symbolism of a whirlpool from Greek mythology, the late Marvin Sussman edited what he called a “Charibdys” issue of *Marriage and Family Review*—a special issue that was a collection of promising papers that had been rejected by other journals. This is where her theory first appeared in print. Soon she was publishing prolifically. (See www.ambiguousloss.com.)



Fast forward to 2010. Her book for families, *Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief*, has been translated into seven languages. The Red Cross is using her work to help families of the missing in Haiti. The U.S. Veterans Administration is using her theory in working with the families of veterans who are returning with brain injuries, and just recently, autism spectrum disorders are getting new attention from researchers using the lenses of ambiguous loss. These are just a few of its applications.

Her clientele has grown from those in her Minnesota practice to thousands she has helped personally or by training other professionals all over the world. She worked in New York City after 9/11 and with families who have lived through the horror of torture or war in places such as Kosovo. Pauline discovered that “therapy” is not limited to a one-on-one relationship with a trained therapist. She tells us that “community” can sometimes be more therapeutic than a single health provider. Moreover, her work has informed the therapeutic community to look for strengths. Most survivors of catastrophes will not develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and she cautions helpers to look for resiliency and not just pathology.

I asked Pauline “How often do you hear from a person—not someone who works in the field but someone who writes you out of the blue who found your book and says ‘this is my....’” Pauline anticipated the rest of my question and answered, “Twice a week, minimum.” People find her and explain their situations which are myriad. The theory has been applied in ways that Pauline hadn’t even thought of when she was first formulating her ideas. There are many ways to lose people—foster care, immigration, runaways, mental illness, grandparents who are not allowed to see their grandchildren. People call her and actually say “I think I have an ambiguous loss.” They somehow find her book and recognize themselves in it. The week before I met with her, a father wrote to her and said “I’ve lost my son,” but his son hadn’t passed away...he was going to have sex change surgery. He was indeed “losing” the son he knew, but he couldn’t yet see that the person, his child, was still there. Well-meaning people may say something like “well, you’re gaining a daughter.” Pat answers are rarely helpful. Something he treasured was changing forever. He was moving from the known to the unknown. When one’s feelings of loss cannot be validated, they lead to what Pauline calls “frozen grief”—another kind of complicated grief.

She finds enormous joy knowing her work has been helpful to others but also that new scholars are building on it. Pauline explained, “What is pleasing to me more than anything is that there is a second generation of researchers testing the theory with other kinds of ambiguous loss that I never touched such as autism. But it’s also being testing cross-culturally to see if the theory holds up and measurement issues are being researched. These younger people are out there applying the theory, testing, doing new research, finding new avenues of research application... nothing could please a professor more than that.”

Following up, I asked “What would you say to an up-and-coming NCFR member who’s happened upon an innovative thought and is wondering ‘might this be a theory?’” Pauline encourages them to study the authors who have written about the long process of theory development. She cited the work of Reuben Hill as instrumental for her. “I’d have them go often to NCFR and its Theory Construction & Methodology Workshop (TCRM), to gather around some mentors who are both creative and also rigorous. You have to have

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Technology at NCFR

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

With all apologies to my editor and thanks for her eternal patience, I'm attempting to break my year-long writers block and pen my first *Report* column in six months. We have three major technology projects going on at NCFR in 2010, two of which are already complete!

In the first major upgrade this year, NCFR servers went virtual. Our server environment had been running on four physical machines, two of which were over five years old. Several of our key software applications were both running on shared machines when they should have been isolated, and were one or two generations out of date. It was the right time to invest in a virtualized environment and implement our software upgrades there.

The planning happened early this year, with implementation throughout April and May. NCFR purchased one new server, an iSCSI hard drive unit and VMware vSphere 4. Once that was up and running and the applications

had been migrated off of the newest of our existing servers, we converted that machine into a second VMware host.

In plain terms what all this means is that we now have just two physical servers accessing a large shared array of hard disks. Using virtualization technology, this environment currently hosts ten virtual servers – each of which operates just like its own physical machine. Major benefits of this are greater energy efficiency, a more stable and secure environment, and long term cost effectiveness. Plus we used the opportunity to upgrade our email server (Exchange 2010), email list-servs (Lyris ListManager 10.2), accounting software (Great Plains 2010), and implement SharePoint 2010 for deployment later this year.

The second major technology project of 2010 was the NCFR office move. This of course required months of planning and preparation and necessitated a day of downtime for our email and web servers. In the end

we pulled it off smoothly, and everything was back up and running from the climate-controlled secure space in our new location at the end of the day. An improvement inherent in this is that NCFR headquarters now has a much faster internet connection, so if you are also using a high-speed connection you may notice our webpages loading more quickly than before.

The third major technology project is the year-long redesign of ncfr.org that kicked off on April 1 and is currently underway. We're on track to have a functional prototype built in time for the annual conference in November and launch the website to the public in early 2011. There is so much that can be said about this project, but suffice it to say that the energy and creativity we've seen from our web development partners has so far exceeded expectations – and we have a feeling that the new website will really be something special. ■

report from minneapolis continued from page 8

a testable theory. If it can't be tested, it's not a theory."

Pauline came to her current place in life from a background as a wife, mother and from her first career as a home economics teacher. She was extremely busy with a young family during those years—I asked her what drove her to pursue what would be her second career and life's work. "Curiosity is the most important characteristic, and I've always been curious.... It takes creativity and perseverance, but above all, it takes curiosity."

As we were finishing the interview, she added something I didn't expect. She said that her intense curiosity began in childhood. "I've always wanted to be a detective," Pauline said. When she was about six years old, she was captivated by the radio program about a private investigator, *Mr. Keen: Tracer of Lost Persons*. Then she said with a smile "Guess what I do research on?"

Her earlier work *Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief* is the book for people whose loved ones are missing physically or psychologically. This is the book that can be handed to a family; indeed, her publisher gave out hundreds of free copies in New York City in 2001. She has a newer book—

Loss, Trauma, and Resilience: Therapeutic Work with Ambiguous Loss (W.W. Norton 2006)—that is written for the researcher and helping professional. This is the book which describes the six levels of guidance that practitioners can use to help people live with ambiguous or unresolved loss:

- Finding Meaning
- Tempering Mastery
- Reconstructing Identity
- Normalizing Ambivalence
- Revising Attachment
- Discovering Hope

The six guidelines are meant to help therapists and educators ease the stress of families with any kind of ambiguous loss. These six constructs are also meant to provide a fuller theoretical model for future researchers to test. As a family life educator, I will always have a copy of this 2006 book in my personal library. I won't spoil the ending for the prospective reader, but I will disclose that in this book, she weaves insightful memoir into her work. She has lived with ambiguous losses herself. She just didn't know what to call them at the time.

Where do theories come from? Where are our burgeoning theorists? Some are in their first careers, feeling a new calling to go back

to school. Some are in NCFR right now. They are graduate students and new scholars. Pauline's career began with her first paper session. At an NCFR conference, she found the connections she needed to move ahead with her dissertation research and her entire academic career.

Maybe NCFR's next budding theorist is you! I'll see you in Minneapolis in November. ■

Themes for upcoming issues of NCFR Report

NCFR Report is our member-written magazine. Each issue is based on a theme. Members are encouraged to submit articles. The themes and deadlines for upcoming issues are:

Spring 2011: *Couples*. Deadline is 12/21/2010.

Summer 2011: *Transition to Parenthood*. Deadline is 3/21/2011.

Fall 2011: *Intergenerational Relationships*. Deadline 6/21/2011.

To express interest, ask questions or to get the submission guidelines, write to editor, Nancy Gonzalez, at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org

Students/New Professionals... make the conference work for you

You know that the NCFR Annual Conference is a great opportunity for career and academic development. Here are two quick lists below that can help in your planning: tips/ideas for making contacts and sessions focused on S/NP topics.

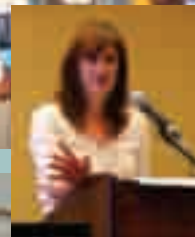
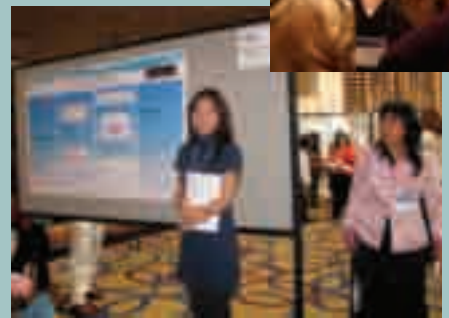
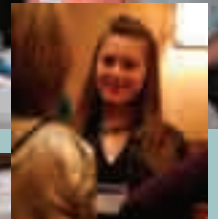
Coming soon... you'll receive messages that provide even more comprehensive recommendations for getting the most out of the conference and give more detailed session descriptions.

Making connections

- Do your research and plan your daily schedule well before the conference.
- Look for sessions on topics that interest you; look for the presenters working on what's important in your academic/career plans. See the conference-related pages on the NCFR website for links to documents that sort all sessions by subject and by author. See also what the Sections are sponsoring, www.ncfr.org/conf/current/section_schedule.asp.
- Check with your professors and other students about presenters they know and can help you meet.
- Poster sessions can be a much friendlier environment for talking to presenters (compared to post-session discussions). Often you make one-to-one contact. And the ideas presented on the poster are an easy reference point to get conversation going.
- Think about basic questions or comments that relate to those subjects/presenters that interest you; when you do connect, you'll have a starting point for a conversation.
- Another easy-meet option—the “Speed Mentoring” session. Sit down with a pro, tell your story in one minute, and get feedback based on experience.
- Bring copies of your resume/vita

Sessions that matter

- Newcomers Reception; Wed, 12-1:30pm (win stuff!)
- Mixer Session for Undergraduate and Graduate Students; Wed, 6:15-7pm (learn some new names now, early in the week)
- Pecha Kucha Session, 7-9pm. Each presentation is 6.67 minutes: Becoming an Educator: Navigating through the Process; Online Methods for Family Research; Challenges in Establishing a Service-Learning Course; Succeeding in Academia: Role of Culture, Class, and Family of Origin; Innovative Services/Support for Teachers at Research Universities
- Grant Writing; Th, 8-10am (real case studies)
- The Family Studies Job Market; Th, 12:15-1:45pm
- So You Want to Write a Book; Th, 3:45-5:15pm
- How to Prepare Manuscripts for NCFR Journals; Th, 5:30-7pm (lead by the journal editors)
- Successful Student Affiliate Strategies and Intrastate Collaboration; Fri, 8-10am (includes breakfast)
- Undergraduate Experiences While Attending the NCFR Conference; Fri, 8-9:30am (a poster session)
- Surviving in Academia: Work-Family Fit; Fri, 8:30-10am (a roundtable session)
- Negotiating Identity: A Conversation between Students and Professionals; Fri, 12:45-1:45pm (a Fellows roundtable)
- Speed Mentoring Session; Fri, 12:45-1:45pm
- Fellows Roundtables; Fri, 12:45-1:45 (NCFR Fellows discuss a specific topic in a small group setting; also Wed, 12:30-1:30pm)
- Applying to Graduate School; Fri, 3:45-5:15pm
- University Receptions; Fri, 6:30-8:30pm
- Bridges to Building Successful Affiliates; Sat, 12:15-1:45pm (a roundtable session)



Thank you to our conference sponsors

NCFR staff and board extend great appreciation to Jan McCulloch (Minnesota), Jay Martini (Georgia), and Bob Hughes (Illinois) for support by their institutions in delivering four top-notch plenary sessions.

"Do Children Need Both a Mother and a Father? The Relationship between Science and Politics"

Timothy Biblarz, Ph.D., USC, and Judith Stacey, Ph.D., NYU. Dr. Joseph Pleck, Discussant.

Sponsored by the University of Georgia, Department of Child and Family Development

"Families and Social Media"

Donald Roberts, Ph.D., Stanford University (Kaiser Family Foundation). Heather Horst, Ph.D., University of California-Irvine (MacArthur Foundation). Tracey Kennedy, Ph.D., University of Toronto (Pew Charitable Trusts). Moderator: Susan Walker, Ph.D., University of Minnesota.

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Department of Family Social Science

"Innovations in Family Policy"

Maria Cancian, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

Sponsored by the University of Illinois, Department of Human and Community Development and The Family Resiliency Center

"Healing From Torture: Current Issues in Interventions"

Jon Hubbard, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and Director of Research, Center for Victims of Torture

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Department of Family Social Science



Minnesota Council offers "Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Life Educators" Workshops

This spring, MCFR took our professional development efforts to four locations around the state, offering a half-day workshop on "Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Educators." The sessions were very well attended by a variety of professionals, 75% of whom were not MCFR members, providing a great outreach opportunity across the state and family professions. The three-hour workshops were taught by a team of MCFR members, trained to present the content.

Participants indicated that the workshop was relevant and valuable in their work with families. Some of their comments:

"I liked how interesting and relevant to my work the workshop was – how fast the time went."

"I liked the application of the process in small groups – very helpful."

"I will make use of the principles and combine them with social work ethics to help determine actions."

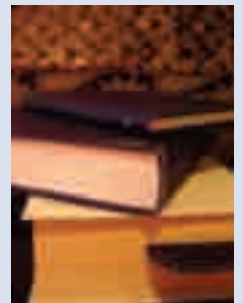
"I was surprised by the clarity of the process – making ethical issues understandable."

Requests for more workshops are coming in, and MCFR is making plans to offer additional sessions. Plus, we're developing a Part II follow-up workshop to focus on applying the ethical thinking process to real life ethical situations faced by family professionals daily.

In 2009, as part of this project, MCFR revised and reprinted our ethics resource booklet for family professionals, "Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Life Educators." Copies of the booklet are available for purchase for \$5, or the document may be downloaded for free via the MCFR website at www.mcfr.net. ■

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



David C. Bell (2010). *The Dynamics of Connection: How Evolution and Biology Create Caregiving and Attachment*. Lanham Md: Lexington Books.

Laurel A. Falvo (2010). *More Than a Sum of Diagnostic Differences: A Positive Perspective on Autism and Asperger Syndrome*. The Gray Center.

Laurel A. Falvo (2010). *Why Do They Do That? Answers to Questions You Might Have About People with Autism and Asperger Syndrome...and Tips You Can Use to Help Them! (DVD)*. The Gray Center.

Rex L. Forehand and Nicholas Long (2010). *Parenting the Strong-Willed Child: The clinically proven five-week program for parents of two- to six-year-olds* (3rd Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Kathleen W. Piercy (2010). *Working with Aging Families: Therapeutic Solutions for Caregivers, Spouses, & Adult Children*. W. W. Norton.

Constance H. Shapiro (2010). *When You're Not Expecting: An Infertility Survival Guide*. Ontario, Canada: John Wiley & Sons Canada, Ltd.

Bahira Sherif Trask (2010). *Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change*. Springer.

Student affiliates

Stephen F. Austin State University
Jacks Council on Family Relations

Bowling Green State University
Student Council on Family Relations

Central Michigan University
Family Relations Council

East Carolina University
Council on Family Relations

Louisiana Tech University
Student Council on Family Relations

Messiah College
Council on Family Relations

Minnesota Council on Family Relations
Student Section

Purdue University
Council on Family Relations

Samford University
Council on Family Relations

Texas Tech University
Tech Council on Family Relations

Towson University
Student Council on Family Relations

University of Central Oklahoma
University Council on Family Relations

University of Connecticut
Council on Family Relations

University of Detroit Mercy
Council on Family Relations

University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign
Student Council on Family Relations

University of Maryland
Council on Family Relations

University of Missouri
Council on Family Relations

University of Nebraska - Kearney
Council on Family Relations

University of North Texas
Student Council on Family Relations

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Council on Family Relations

University of Wisconsin – Stout
Stout Council on Family Relations

Weber State University
Council on Family Relations

2010 Student Affiliate Councils of NCFR

by Amanda Williams, S/NP Representative to the Affiliate Councils Board

Affiliate Councils of the National Council on Family Relations are local, state, and regional councils who work in their immediate areas as well as with the national organization to further the mission of NCFR 365 days a year. Student Affiliates have a special place within the Affiliate Councils and NCFR as they not only strive to learn about and improve marriage and family relationships, but also focus on developing students into leading professionals in the family field and beyond. There currently are 22 student councils affiliated with NCFR. Check the list to see if there is one near you!

The Affiliate Councils Board (ACB), led by ACB President Chloe Merrill, would also like to introduce Angela Rushton, President of the Jacks Council on Family Relations at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. In addition to serving as president of JCFR, Angela was elected to serve as the 2009-2011 Student Affiliate Representative for the Affiliate Councils Board. She is currently an undergraduate and graduate student at Stephen F. Austin State University. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Development and her Master of Science in Human Sciences-Child and Family.

Angela's role with the Affiliate Councils is to strengthen the bridge between the 22 student affiliates and the national organization, as well as foster relationships among the student

councils. She also is a member of the S/NP Leadership Council Steering Committee. With the growing number of student affiliates and opportunities arising within the field of family science, it is important to have a liaison to aid in communication between the student affiliates and the professionals. Angela believes encouragement and new ideas are vital and should be shared between affiliates and the Affiliate Councils Board as well as NCFR. She stands as an advocate for the student affiliates, and works with the board to create opportunities for students to serve, learn, and grow as NCFR members and professionals in the field. Student Affiliate members are strongly encouraged to contact Angela with any questions, suggestions, or ideas at angelaalushton@gmail.com.

To become a student affiliate council of NCFR, councils/universities must have at least 10 dues-paying NCFR members, which can include faculty, graduate students, or undergraduate students. Councils must adopt the NCFR mission as the mission of the council and must use NCFR as part of the council's name (e.g. XYZ University Council on Family Relations). Councils must refer to their organization as "an affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations," and (with permission) may use the NCFR logo as part of their identification. Councils must devise a means of governance, consistent with NCFR by-laws, structure, dues, and file them with NCFR headquarters. Want to find out more? Visit http://www.ncfr.org/pdf/membersvc/student_handbook.pdf for more information or contact Lynda Bessey at lyndabessey@ncfr.org. ■



Angela Rushton

Student Affiliate Presidents and Advisors,

Please fit these events into your busy NCFR conference schedules. You are valued members of the Affiliate Councils, S/NP Leadership Council, and NCFR!

Wednesday, November 3, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Affiliate Councils Leadership Workshop

Thursday, November 4, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Student/New Professional Leadership Council

Student affiliate presidents are members of this council!

Friday, November 5, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Affiliate Councils Student Breakfast

See you in November!

Watch for more information about Affiliate contests (e.g. who brings the most members, who traveled the longest distance, etc.)

“Your Affiliate Matters”

by Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D., CFLE, ACB President

Our state, regional, local, and student affiliates are an important part of NCFR. In January 2009, the name was changed from the Association of Councils (AOC) to Affiliate Councils (AC) to reflect more accurately who the affiliates are. The NCFR leadership for this area is the Affiliate Council Board (ACB) that represents and helps to give direction to the current affiliates.

Strategic planning has continued since that time with the NCFR staff and Affiliate Council Board being actively involved in a variety of different strategies to help strengthen all affiliates.

The Affiliate Council Board (ACB) has six primary goals. Under each goal, a variety of strategies have been identified with action items, agents to follow through on each item and a timeline for evaluation and/or completion.

The six primary goals are:

- Increase membership in affiliate councils and NCFR
- Increase number of affiliate councils
- Ensure long term viability of affiliate councils
- Retain members at affiliate and national level
- Clarify why being part of NCFR matters
- Increase engagement of members

To help us in meeting some of these goals and strategies, we have initiated conference calls that are held quarterly with all the state, regional, and local affiliate presidents or their designee. We have also initiated conference calls with all student affiliate advisors and student presidents. Our first call was held in February, followed by the second in May. This is a good way for affiliate leaders to interact and network and also for NCFR to be more aware of the needs of the affiliates.

Elections for the office of Affiliate Council Secretary and Student/New Professional Representative were recently held. We would like to congratulate Lloyd Pickering as the new Secretary and Danielle (Dani) Taylor as the new Student/New Professional Representative. They will take office at the end of the NCFR Annual Conference in November.

For the NCFR Annual Conference, the Affiliate Councils Workshop's theme is “Affiliates Matter.” We would love to see you all there. Please see the article “Affiliates Matter!” for more information.

We would also like to extend a welcome back to the Southeastern Council on Family Relations. They have reactivated the council and are making great strides forward.

Please note that we are here for you. Be sure to let us know how we can be of service to help you meet your goals and support your affiliate. ■

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 *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.

Students...

Don't miss the Student Affiliate Breakfast

Are you an officer of a Student Affiliate? Are you a Student Representative of a State/Regional Affiliate? Are you interested in starting a Student Affiliate at your University? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then this breakfast meeting is the one for you.

Friday, November 5 at 8:30 a.m. is the annual Student Affiliate Breakfast. Come learn about *Successful Student Affiliate Strategies and Intrastate Collaboration* from student affiliate advisors and officers from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and University of Wisconsin-Stout. They will be discussing “Bringing Them In, Getting the Word Out, and Putting it All Together.”

Awards will also be presented at this breakfast for the most attendees from your Student Affiliate, best Student Affiliate display, and Many more. Registration is required for this breakfast. Please contact Angela Rushton (angelarushton@gmail.com) or Lynda Bessey (lyndabessey@ncfr.org) if you have any questions. ■

“Affiliates Matter!”

by Joanne Roberts, Ph.D.,
Affiliate Councils Board Program Chair

At the NCFR Annual Conference this year, you'll find out why “Affiliates Matter!” That's the theme of the Affiliate Councils Workshop on Wednesday, November 3, and the focus for all of the workshop activities—from the greeting by our new NCFR President, Gary Bowen, to the final slide show of all the affiliates.

Two affiliates will be highlighted during the workshop: Weber State University and Oklahoma Council on Family Relations. Workshop participants will have opportunities to interact with their peers in three interactive break-out sessions: recruiting and sustaining members; program ideas; and fundraising and financial sustainability. The leaders for the workshops are leaders in their affiliates who will be sharing their own experiences as well as facilitating the exchange of ideas among the participants.

This workshop includes lunch. Registration is required. No charge for affiliate presidents and officers; \$30 for others. ■

Family Therapy Section News

by Jeffry Larson, Ph.D., Section Chair, Jeffry_larson@byu.edu

I hope all of you had a great summer and are looking forward to fall—my favorite season! Meanwhile, get ready for a great NCFR conference on November 3-6, 2010 in Minneapolis, MN at the Hilton hotel, downtown. We held our annual conference planning meeting there in April, 2010 and it is one of the nicest hotels I have been in for a conference! You will love it. Great hot tub and pool! The conference theme is: Families and Innovation. Come learn the latest in research and clinical techniques on how to treat couples and families and train MFTs.

Conference highlights

A family therapy section-sponsored workshop is now scheduled on Saturday of the conference on the topic of treating families of victims of PTSD. With two wars still raging for the United States, this is a very timely topic. *USA Today* reported on May 14, 2010 that "...mental health care stays are up in the military, causing more hospitalizations among U.S. troops in 2009 than any other reason..."

Dr. Charles Figley, an internationally-known researcher and clinician will update us on the most recent research on family therapy treatment and present a three-hour workshop after that. Plan to be there!

In reviewing proposal abstracts this year, our section had 49 submitted (51 last year). We have organized four paper sessions on premarital therapy; diversity and social justice issues in training MFTs; treatment effectiveness research; and treatments for violence. We plan a round table discussion on talking to couples about finances in couple therapy and one on using simulated clients to train MFTs. There also will be a workshop on multiple family therapy for sex offending adolescents. So, you can see, there is much diversity in the program. To see the FT section details for the meeting, email me at: Jeffry_larson@byu.edu. This document will be posted on the NCFR website, also.

Our FT section business meeting will be on Thursday, November 4, 12:15-1:45 pm.

Please plan to be there; light refreshments will be served.

More good news

Other interesting NCFR news is membership, now up 10% from last year to 3,300. Family therapy is the fifth largest section (of ten). Conference abstract submissions overall were the highest in 15 years for NCFR!

Congratulations to our incoming officers for the section: Christi McGeorge, Chair-Elect; Steve Fife, Secretary/Treasurer; and Spencer Olmstead, Student/NP representative. Come meet them at the conference!

Our FT-sponsored new award, the Kathleen Briggs Mentoring Award was approved by the board of directors. Our aim is to raise \$10,000 for an endowment (the award will include a check for \$500); currently we have raised \$8,468. Please send donations directly to John Pepper at NCFR and mark your check with Kathleen Briggs Award. This award will be given in 2012 for the first time if the money has been raised by then. Please dig into your pockets and contribute.

Much thanks to these members who served as reviewers of the abstracts for the annual conference: Kay Higgs-Adams, Richard Wampler, Isa Ribadu, Volker Thomas, Deborah Bailey, Colleen Peterson, Kay Bradford, Raquel Delevi, Jared Anderson, Tekulve Martial-Vann, Tony Faber, Matthew Mutchler, Kevin Green, Thomas Carlson, Tatiana Glebova, Barry Ginsberg, Hye-Sun Ro, Kevin Allemagne, Shayne Anderson, Rahna Cutting, Mary Sue Green, Candyce Russell, John Foley, Cody Hollist, Carmen Knudsen-Martin, Eric Hansen, Iva Koustic, Angela Bradford, Erika Gafsky, Yvonne Makidon, Lindsay Edwards, Lauren Fortner, Mary Jo Jones, Justin Koon, Blendine Hawkins, and Christi McGeorge.

In late summer, we will request volunteers to be paper session facilitators. This involves presiding at a paper session, keeping time, introducing speakers, and facilitating discussion with the audience. It is a valuable learning experience. For information, contact me directly at: Jeffry_larson@byu.edu.

I look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis! Send me information you would like to share with the section or go directly to the NCFR website and click on FT section to send announcements to the entire section with a click of the mouse. Have a great fall and I'll see you in November.

In Memoriam

Lee Axelson, NCFR President, 1973-74

Leland J. Axelson, NCFR's Board President in 1973-74 passed away at age 85 in Blacksburg, Virginia, on Thursday, May 6, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Julein, and his children, Andrea, Marta, and Paul, and their families. Lee was a professor of sociology and a researcher in marriage and the family. He taught family and child development at Florida State, Colorado State, and Virginia Tech from which he retired in 1989. He had been active in the Blacksburg community for many years, involved in various volunteer activities including The United Way, The Free Clinic, Civitan, and Luther Memorial Lutheran Church.

Lee was a long-time member and leader of NCFR who served on the Board in several capacities in addition to President. He is best remembered for his tenacious efforts to increase members of NCFR and to provide services that both practitioners and researchers needed. He was appointed by Gerald Leslie, 1971 President, to chair the first "self-study" of membership needs. As a result, NCFR underwent some restructuring to improve its functioning and services to members. For example, the President-elect's role as conference program chair became a separate Board position. The executive committee of the board was abolished and board size decreased. Lee was a leader in recruiting minority members to NCFR and encouraging them to fill leadership positions. He was also very interested in defining the discipline of family studies and in collaborating with other related professional organizations. The 1974 Annual Conference was held jointly with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in St. Louis. Attendance broke a record of 1,700 attendees which still stands. He spearheaded family policy advancement, working with then Senator Walter Mondale on the "Child and Family Services Act."

Lee was also very supportive of the state affiliated councils. He served in a variety leadership roles in the Southeastern Council on Family Relations. After his retirement, Lee and Julein often attended the national conference to support and connect with many friends and colleagues. He will be missed by many who knew and respected him.

Memorials and condolences can be addressed to Julein Axelson, 320 Showalter Center, Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg, VA 24060; email: juleinaxelson@verizon.net

Religion and Family Life Section News

by Joe D. Wilmoth, Ph.D., Chair, jwilmoth@humansci.msstate.edu

The 2010 NCFR Conference promises to be particularly exciting for the Religion and Family Life Section. Besides an important special session presented by some of the nation's top researchers in the field, our section will sponsor significant symposium, paper, and poster sessions.

Please join us for our section members meeting at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 4. Last year's meeting featured a remarkable level of enthusiasm and creative energy. You will be able to hear about exciting progress on some of the projects proposed at last year's meeting, including the Wesley R. Burr Endowed Award, the searchable bibliography of religion and family articles, the compilation of syllabi addressing religion

and the family, and sponsorship of this year's special session. If you're not yet a member of the section, we invite you to come check us out.

When you attend this year's section meeting, you can help us plan more activities and projects that will promote scholarly study of religion and family life. It's also a great opportunity to engage in stimulating discussion, make valuable professional connections, and examine common research interests. Eat an early dinner, and make it back in time for this important meeting.

Although Religion and Family Life will be well represented throughout the conference, Friday is a particularly important day. In addition to our section meeting, we also will

sponsor a special session, a symposium, and poster presentations.

The highlight of the day for the section is the special session at 3:45 p.m. addressing bi-directional relationships between religion and families. Christopher G. Ellison will present "The Effects of Parental Divorce on the Spiritual Experiences of Young Adults: Do They Vary by Levels of Parental Conflict?" W. Bradford Wilcox will present "First Comes Marriage," which examines the relationship between changes in American family life and the decline in religious attendance. Annette Mahoney, author of a forthcoming review of religion and family research for the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, will discuss the papers in the broader context of recent research.

The Sacred in Families, at 8:30 a.m., Friday, will be a symposium related to a theory building and research project that deals with the ways aspects of religion help and harm families. Wesley R. Burr and Loren D. Marks will describe their theory and research, and their paper will be discussed by William J. Doherty, Frank D. Fincham, and Annette Mahoney. Burr, a past president of NCFR, has made fundamental contributions to the development of family theory, including being editor of the two-volume *Contemporary Theories about the Family* (1979).

At the 12:15 poster session on Friday, 12 posters will present a wide range of topics on the relationship of families to religion and spirituality.

The first event sponsored by the Religion and Family Life Section will be an invited symposium at 3:45 p.m., Wednesday: *Religion and Relationships: How Religion Influences Perceptions of Sacrifice and Satisfaction in Family Relationships*. Authors of the papers include Frank Fincham, Scott Stanley, Davidollahite, Loren Marks, Nathaniel Lambert, and Anthony Walker.

A paper session at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, will explore topics related to the theme, *Religion and Family Interaction across Generations*. Papers will include "The Influence of Religious Contexts on Family Commitment and Time Together"; "Spirituality, Sacrifice, and Relationship Quality for Pregnant Cohabitors"; "The Role of Religiosity in Romantic and Parent-Child Relationships: Intergenerational Continuities"; and "Family,

religion and family life continued on page 16

Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between April 1 and June 30, 2010. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alabama

Jennifer McCracken
Vin Porter (full)

Arizona

Christine Ann Thompson

California

Nicole Meighan
Lynda Zepeda (full)

Georgia

Lauren Kirchner

Louisiana

Tammy Harpel
Racquel Hayes McKay
Bethany Sartori

Maryland

Allison Ciborowski
LaShell Wallace

Michigan

Alina Baltazar (full)
Julianne Bock
Gina Boscarino
Laurie Bullock (full)
Jo Ann Cook (full)
Heather Dean
Rosaura Dempsey
Latoya Irvin
Sherisse Mathis
Patricia Monroe
LaKeisha Purifoy
Elizabeth Seckler
Kelice Stoerman

Minnesota

Vickie Thrasher Cronin (full)

Missouri

Veronica Waters

Nevada

Mandi Gundersen

New York

Leila Kundrat

North Carolina

Jasmine Carroll
Aya Isumi
Tamika Joyner
Heather Swaim
Megan Walker

North Dakota

Amy Stark

Ohio

Amber Levesque
Lesley Pihlajamaki
Claire Roth

Oklahoma

Sarah Njuguna (full)

Oregon

Jilliann Beck
Sara Jacobsen
Dina Kashuba

South Carolina

Henry McKay

South Dakota

Ronda Rose-Kayser (full)

Tennessee

Laura Wade

Texas

Margaret Addington (full)
Meredith Dyer
Derek Kester (full)
Chelsea Martin
Katie McKearan
Stacey Merlin
Sharon Pugh (full)
Aubrey Spaeth
Angela Walston (full)

Utah

Diane Bachman
Misty Gundersen
Amy Larson
Mallory Meyer
Kris Larsen Richards

Virginia

Julia Showers-Soaper
Jennifer Toth

Wisconsin

Ashley Wirth

Germany

Bobbie Atkinson

Malaysia

Matthew Ling Ung Hiing

in this issue:

**Family Focus on...
Research and Theory**

Elections Council seeks leaders for NCFR

NCFR's future is inextricably tied to the quality and dedication of its leaders. We need you!

As we approach the annual conference in Minneapolis, the Elections Council asks you to think about the leadership opportunities in NCFR that would be a good match for you. Speak with colleagues, mentors, section leaders, or Elections Council members about your desire to serve and your willingness to be nominated for a position. Also consider nominating colleagues who you think would be a good match for the positions available in the next election cycle:

- Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect (2012-2013)
- Program Chair-Elect (2012-2013 – Program Chair 2014)
- Elections Council members (2012-2015); two positions
- Fellows Committee members (2012-2015); three positions

Each year we begin our work on the next election cycle at the annual conference, asking sections to nominate potential candidates for the organizational level positions that need to be filled, and encouraging individuals to nominate either themselves or others. Last year we were more than pleased at the number of candidates who offered to run for office, and we are excited about the outstanding list of potential candidates we have before us. We are now in the process of contacting potential candidates to ask them to run in the 2011 election.

In the spring, we will meet to identify and discuss possible candidates for 2012 who have been identified by nomination or who appear on lists of members who have previously served in leadership positions across the organization. We consider not only the experience of individual candidates, but also the structure of the overall slate, asking ourselves if we are building a slate that reflects the strength and diversity of the organization and its members.

The Elections Council's responsibility is to help NCFR members match their leadership abilities to the leadership opportunities that abound within our organization, and we take

seriously the NCFR Board's charge to find the right people who are willing to have their names placed on the ballot each year. We are guided by the operating values outlined in the NCFR by-laws and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures. Our desire is to build a slate that represents the entire NCFR membership and that reflects and promotes the mission and goals of NCFR. ■

Elections Council

Suzanne M. Randolph and Donna L. Sollie (Co-chairs), Katherine Allen, Sandra J. Bailey, Gary Lee, Glen Palm, Karen Wampler, Stephan Wilson

religion and family life continued from page 15

Religion, and Psychological Well-Being among Male and Female Youth."

Thanks to all who submitted paper and poster proposals and all who volunteered to review them. The reviewing process helped to insure an outstanding group of scholarly presentations for the conference.

For the first time, the Religion and Family Life and the Family and Health Sections will

co-sponsor the daily meditation, 7:45 – 8:15 each morning Thursday through Saturday. Teri Henke, S/NP representative for the Religion and Family Life Section, is organizing the meditations, which will use Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction as the basis.

It's a great time to be a part of the Religion and Family Life Section. I look forward to seeing you at our activities in Minneapolis.

Erratum: When I wrote about Annette Mahoney's accomplishments in the Summer *NCFR Report*, I should have stated that the \$1.2 million grant she was awarded from the Templeton Foundation was in collaboration with Kenneth I. Pargament and Alfred DeMaris. ■

