

In this issue:

Innovations

pages F1 – F16

New research and practice information is added to the field continually. What are some of these innovations? In our Family Focus section, read about the newest thought about families and spirituality, biological influences, the transition to parenting and the impact of the latest information technologies.

next issue:

Research and Theory

2010 Annual Conference
November 3-6, 2010
Minneapolis, Minnesota



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www.ncfr.org

Conference update

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

You need to be part of the 2010 NCFR annual conference in November. We have an incredible program of speakers and special events that will invigorate your mind and facilitate your connections with colleagues from all over the world. If you haven't already registered, found a roomie, and booked a flight or other transport, now is a great time to make these arrangements. (Note: If you aren't presenting and your institution pays for travel only if you are on the program, contact a section chair and offer to help them.) Below, let me walk you through the program highlights, all of which coalesce around the theme of *Families and Innovation*.

Tuesday is "pre-conference" day. The annual Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) workshop begins today and is an especially great opportunity for students and new professionals. Instead of listening to speakers, TCRM participants read the papers beforehand and fully participate in a facilitated discussion of each manuscript. This format provides what many of us may be missing from our daily grind of too many committees and increased teaching loads: the time and space to help and learn from our colleagues by engaging in constructive critiques of their work. TCRM also offers two opportunities to hone your methodological skills – a workshop on missing data imputation, and another on using qualitative data management software.

If TCRM isn't your thing, then perhaps you'd like to sign up for the *Immersion into East African Cultures in the Twin Cities* pre-conference tour where you will visit a local community center, meet with Somali community leaders and family



2010 Annual Conference
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members, eat lunch at a local restaurant, and visit a Somali Mall in Minneapolis.

Wednesday is the opening day for NCFR. Our plenary speaker, Maria Cancian, will address the effectiveness of family policies in light of our current recession, with attention to issues of race, class, and gender equality. Glen Elder, Jr., will join her for a fireside chat after the plenary, where they will converse about the "Current Recession Versus the Great Depression." A special session on evidence-based policymaking will also be offered on Wednesday.

Thursday is a day for challenging binary thinking. The morning includes a panel from the *JMF Decade in Review*, talking about new developments in research on family diversity. Then, we will be graced by Judith Stacey and Tim Biblarz, who will take on the empirical question of whether family research supports the notion that children need both "a mother"

conference update continued on page 2

Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

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

President: 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

Assistant Editor: Charles Cheesebrough

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How to contribute to the NCFR Report: The NCFR Report is member-written. Articles accepted for publication will be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on 1) relevance to the Family Focus theme, or 2) brevity due to space limitations, and 3) how articles form a complementary collection. For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Nancy Gonzalez, at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org. **The contents of Report articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.**

To advertise in the Report, please see the specifications and price list at http://www.ncfr.org/adrates_report.html.

NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion.

Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are: Spring issue—deadline December 21, Summer issue—March 21, Fall issue—June 21 and the Winter issue—deadline September 21. Send submissions to:

Nancy Gonzalez at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org.

For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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conference update continued from page 1

and “a father.” If the number of hits on their current paper in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* is any indication, this is a *hot* topic. I am delighted that the incomparable Joe Pleck will serve as a discussant for Stacey and Biblarz. A special session that also challenges conventional thinking is Sharon Preves’s *Beyond Pink and Blue* examination of intersexuality in families. Save space in your evening calendar, because it will be a “Free Thursday” night at the nearby Walker Art Center. You can visit on your own, perhaps having dinner or a drink at the Wolfgang Puck restaurant. Or, you can join me for a guided tour and hands-on ArtLab experience.

Friday we consider technology. Our plenary panel includes Donald Roberts, Heather Horst, and Tracy Kennedy (one of whom is scheduled to present via live-streaming). These scholars represent an incredible “Pew, MacArthur, Kaiser” trilogy, where each panelist will present on a different foundation-funded national-in-scope research project on how social media is changing family life. The afternoon brings two special sessions. One presents research on the newly emergent and technology-produced family form, *The Donor Sibling*, while a second examines the structural challenges faced by our discipline across both teaching and research institutions, and discusses creative (and

potentially tech-savvy) ways of thriving in the face of these challenges.

For those of you who think Saturday at NCFR is downtime, you might want to reconsider. This year, we will dive right in to current events with our plenary on *Healing from Torture*. Jon Hubbard, Research Director at Minneapolis’ Institute for Victims of Torture, runs an internationally renowned program for evaluating the effectiveness of treating the effects of political violence on family members. Plans are not yet finalized, but we are hoping to complement this plenary with an afternoon workshop for clinicians who work with veterans returning with PTSD.

There are many other excellent sessions being planned for November, so please pay attention to the details as they are forthcoming. One that I would like to highlight is the Religion and Families’ session being organized to consider Andrew Cherlin’s argument at last year’s NCFR that religion exerts both a push and pull on the decision to marry. First, I think it is very cool to have this kind of lineage from one year to the next. Second, I am personally thrilled that one of the panelists is Christopher Ellison, the pre-eminent sociologist of religion at UT-Austin.

If I haven’t convinced you to attend NCFR next November, please call me (217-333-2547). Seriously; we need to talk. ■

NCFR Fellows sought!

Greetings NCFR Members! The Fellows Committee is seeking nominations for the 2010 Fellows Awards. Would you please help us by nominating members who have made significant contributions to the organization and the field? A description of Fellow Status in NCFR, the Fellows Award criteria for selection to Fellow Status, and the procedure for submitting nominations follow. The Fellows Committee would greatly appreciate your assistance.

What Is Fellow Status in NCFR?

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few living members of NCFR who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to the field of the family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach or professional service, including service to NCFR. By definition, outstanding contributions are those that have had a broad impact on the field and are enduring over time. These contributions occur infrequently.

What Are the Criteria For Fellow Status?
Examples of outstanding contributions having an enduring impact on the field include, but are not limited to:

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

fellows continued on page 3

NCFR officers elected for 2010



Jennifer Hardesty



Maureen
Perry-Jenkins



Andrew Behnke



Leigh Leslie

The following NCFR members were elected to serve in the following offices of the National Council on Family Relations beginning in November of 2010.

Board Members-at-Large for 2010-2013

Jennifer L. Hardesty, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Jennifer has served NCFR in many areas: NCFR Identity Task Force; S/NP Program Chair; S/NP Representative for Research and Theory Section; S/NP Representative for Family and Health Section; Faculty Advisor for Illinois Student Council on Family Relations; Editorial Board of *Family Relations*; Chair of NCFR Pre-Conference Workshop on Intimate Partner Violence; Jessie Bernard Proposal Award Recipient; Jessie Bernard Paper Award Recipient; Reuben Hill Award Committee; Jessie Bernard Award Committee; Cindy Winter Award Committee; NCFR Graduate Student Award Committee; Conference Proposal Reviewer and Session Moderator.

"I have been involved in NCFR on multiple levels for over a decade, including representing S/NPs on the conference program and helping to shape the future of the organization as a member of the NCFR Identity Task Force. I am highly committed to NCFR and have a solid understanding of what the

organization is about and how it operates. I would be honored to be a part of the organization's governance process. As a Board member, I would work diligently and collaboratively with the Board to ensure that NCFR reflects the needs and interest of its membership."

Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Maureen is a member of Feminism & Family Studies and Research & Theory Sections; Associate Editor, *Journal of Marriage and Family*; Associate Editor, *Journal of Family Theory*; past secretary of Research & Theory Section, Constitution Revision Committee, Elections Committee, NCFR Student of the Year Award.

"As a member of NCFR for over 20 years, I am indebted to this organization for providing me a forum to develop and share my interdisciplinary research program. NIH has recently proposed a new 'translational research' agenda focused on linking basic science, applied science and practice – an agenda that has guided NCFR since its inception. I would like to challenge myself and NCFR members at large to consider new and unique ways to showcase the translational work of NCFR and rejuvenate our efforts to bring the top researchers together with policy makers and practitioners to promote the well-being of all families."

Student/New Professional Board Representative for 2010-2012

Andrew O. Behnke, Ph.D., CFLE, Assistant Professor of Human Development, North Carolina State University. Andrew has participated in NCFR in the following ways: Co-Chair of Men in Families Focus Group; involvement in Ethnic Minorities Section of NCFR; reviewed, presented, and served as discussant for past five years of NCFR annual conference; involvement in planning of Extension Family Life Specialists Workshops

"I feel that SNPs want to connect with each other between conferences as they grow to be a part of the NCFR family. I propose we create a simple blog with helpful hints, areas for asking questions, and a forum for ideas about future research and programs. During our conference, why not organize informal out on the town opportunities for SNPs to get out and see the sights and hang out with one another? Of course I also want to hear what you want to get out of NCFR... the current SNP listserv can help us with that: snp_list@listmanager.ncfr.org."

Annual Conference Program Chair-Elect for 2010-2011

(Conference Chair for 2012 Conference in Phoenix, Arizona)

Leigh A. Leslie, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Family Science, University of Maryland, College Park. Leigh's involvement in NCFR has been two separate terms as an At-Large Member of the NCFR Board of Directors; Feminism and Family Studies Section Chair and Vice-Chair; Program Evaluation Committee; Editorial Boards of *JMF* and *FR*; Reuben Hill Award Committee; Jessie Bernard Award Committee; Section Member: EM, FF, FT, RT.

"The nation's attention has been drawn to the issue of health in recent months as we have watched the ongoing debate over health care reform. Although this particular policy battle will be resolved by the time of the 2012 conference, questions concerning the health of individuals and families nationally and

officers for 2010 continued on page 4

fellows continued from page 4

What is the Procedure for Nominations?

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

describe the outstanding nature of the nominee's contributions.

Please send your nominations to jeannestrans@ncfr.org. NCFR will reply with further instructions on getting started and the information regarding membership status. **Deadline for nominations is July 15.** We are building this special recognition to further the legacy of outstanding members of NCFR. Let us hear from you and thank you very much for your consideration. ■

*Greer Litton Fox, Chair
NCFR Fellows Committee
glfox@utk.edu*

internationally will continue. For the 2012 conference I would like us to focus on the intersection of family and health at both the substantive and discipline level. At the substantive level I believe the basic question of what is 'family health' and how do we promote it through our research, interventions, and policy continues to be critical. At the discipline level, I think we also need to engage the question of how do we, as family scientists, interface with health disciplines. Increasingly we are finding our programs being merged with or moved to Colleges of Health Sciences. Thus, I think the question of our professional identity and voice in light of an increased national focus on health is needed."

Student/New Professional Program Representative for 2010-2012

Cassandra R. Dorius, MS, Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the Pennsylvania State University; graduating in the spring of 2010 and currently in the job market. Cassandra has been a member of NCFR since 2006 and belongs to three sections: Research and Theory, Feminism and Family Studies, and Ethnic Minorities. At annual conferences, she has served as a session chair, presenter, and student aide.

"As your representative my primary goal will be to expand the excellent sessions available at the annual conference by developing future SNP topics such as (1) networking, (2) professionalization, (3) getting a job, (4) grant writing, and (5) teaching skills. I also plan to work with the general board to promote a broader coverage of topics in the general program, such as the study of place, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender. To support both of these goals I will continue to develop practical workshops that train SNPs in areas such as secondary data analysis and best practices for interventions and family policy."

National Elections Council Members (2010-2013)

Alan C. Acock, Ph.D., University Distinguished Professor of Family Science and Knudson Chair for Family Policy and Research, Oregon State University

Laura A. Sanchez, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Bowling Green State University

National Fellows Committee Members (2010-2013)

Roger H. Rubin, Ph.D., Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Family Science, University of Maryland

Gladys J. Hildreth, Ph.D., CFLE, Professor of Development and Family Studies, University of North Texas

Section Officers Elected for 2010-2012

Education and Enrichment Section

Jacqueline Kirby Wilkins, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; Carolyn Grasse-Bachman, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer; Alisha M. Hardman, MS, CFLE, Student/New Professional

Ethnic Minorities Section

Chantel L. Lumpkin, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair-Elect; Tiffany L. Brown, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer; R. Roudi Nazarinia, Ph.D., and Alethea Rollins, Ph.D., Student/New Professionals

Family and Health Section

M. Elise Radina, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair-Elect; Karina M. Shreffler, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer; Doris I. Cancel-Tirado, MA, Student/New Professional

Family Science Section

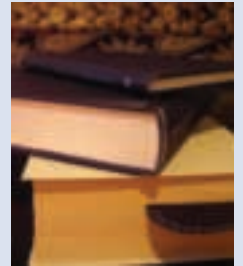
Bahira Sherif Trask, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; Melissa P. Schnurr, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer; H. Marissa Stone, CFLE, Student/New Professional

Family Therapy Section

Christi R. McGeorge, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; Stephen T. Fife, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer; Spencer B. Olmstead, M. Ed., Student/New Professional ■

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



Alan C. Acock (2008). *A Gentle Introduction to Stata*. College Station, Texas: Stata Press.

Karen Bogenschneider and Thomas Corbett (2010). *Evidence-Based Policymaking: Insights from Policy-Minded Researchers and Research-Minded Policymakers*. Routledge.

Christine A. Fruhauf and Dan Mahoney (Eds.) (2010). *Older GLBT Family and Community Life*. London: Routledge.

Joanna Rowe Kaakinen, Vivian Gedaly-Duff, Deborah Padgett Coehlo, Shirley May Harmon Hanson (2010). *Family Health Care Nursing: Theory, Practice & Research*. Fourth edition. F.A. Davis.

Sally A. Lloyd, April L. Few and Katherine R. Allen (2009). *The Handbook of Feminist Family Studies*, Sage.

Hamilton McCubbin, Krystal Ontai, Lisa Kehl, Laurie McCubbin, Ida Strom, Heidi Hart, Barbara DeBaryshe, Marika Ripke and Jon Matsuoka (Eds.) (2010). *Multicultural and Multiethnic Families: Development, Identity and Resilience*. Hawaii and Indiana: Le'a and Xlibre Publications.

Robert M. Milardo (2010). *The Forgotten Kin: Aunts and Uncles*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Annie Rivers (2009). *Celebrating African American Marriage: African American Couples Share Intimate Details of their Successful Marriage*. Trafford Publishing.

Marilyn Sharpe (2010). *For Heaven's Sake! Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully*. Kirk House Publishing (Quill Press imprint)

Marc S. Schulz, Marsha Kline Pruett, Patricia K. Kerig, and Ross D. Parke (2009). *Strengthening Couple Relationships for Optimal Child Development: Lessons from Research and Intervention*. American Psychological Association

Kyle Pruett M.D. and Marsha Pruett Ph.D. (2009). *Partnership Parenting: How Men and Women Parent Differently—Why It Helps Your Kids and Can Strengthen Your Marriage*. Perseus Books (DeCapo)



Measuring our success

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

It's March Madness in the college basketball world as I draft my column for the *NCFR Report*, and by the time of its publication in June 2010, one men's and one women's team will be crowned the NCAA national champion. One thing is certain from my narrow perspective as a loyal and disappointed 57-year-old fan of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), neither championship team will be from UNC-CH. The men's team did not even get a bid to the NCAA dance—from NCAA

National Champions in 2009 to the NIT in 2010. The women's team lost in the first round of their tournament.

Although basketball is a mere distraction for me in the context of the serious problems faced in this world, UNC-CH's season, especially the men's season, forces me to become a bit more philosophical than usual. In these times, I find solace in the wisdom of one of the greatest basketball coaches of all time, the Hall of Fame coach John Wooden. From his famous Pyramid of Success, I think

that Coach Wooden would ask me to reflect on what I learned from this season and, for the purposes of this column, what are the implications of what I learned for my position as NCFR's president.

First, I am reminded once again not to take success for granted. As a UNC-CH basketball fan, I have become spoiled to victory. However, success is earned and requires diligence and hard work. Although NCFR's

president's report continued on page 6

Students and New Professionals... we're here for you

Do you want to become an active S/NP member of NCFR? We are here to work with you. Please feel free to share your great ideas and excitement with us!

Check out our photos at the NCFR website <http://www.ncfr.com/member/representatives.asp> and communicate with other S/NP members via the S/NP listserv at snp_list@listmanager.ncfr.org

Leadership Council Steering Committee

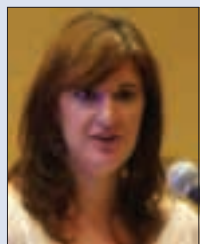
Soyoung Lee, S/NP Board Representative, Montclair State University, leeso@mail.montclair.edu

Claire Kamp Dush, S/NP Program Representative, Ohio State University, ckamp-dush@ehe.osu.edu

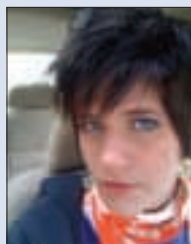
Amanda L. Williams, S/NP Affiliate Councils Board Representative, Oklahoma State University, amanda.williams10@okstate.edu



Soyoung Lee



Claire Kamp Dush



Amanda Williams

Announcement!

Starting with the Fall issue of *NCFR Report* through next Spring (March 2011), Megan Haselschwerdt



Megan Haselschwerdt



Michael Sturm

(FF Section, mhasels2@illinois.edu) and Michael R. Sturm (FS Section, msturm@udel.edu) will be the delegated reporters for the S/NP Section of this magazine. Please feel free to contact them if you want to share great things with other NCFR members such as publications, new jobs, awards, etc.

Section Student/New Professional Representatives

David G. Schramm, EE Section, University of Missouri-Columbia, schrammdg@missouri.edu

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Toward a Definition of Diversity for the National Council on Family Relations

by Edith A. Lewis, Tammy L. Henderson, and Jeanne Strand for the Inclusion and Diversity Committee

For four decades, NCFR members have been engaged in discussions, programs, publications, and conference presentations focusing on the topic of diversity. Our organization has responded in a variety of ways to a rapidly evolving body of theory and practice, which has, among other things, expanded the very concept of diversity.

Since the fall of 2008, under the auspices of the NCFR Board of Directors, a group of dedicated NCFR members and staff have been meeting to consider ways to further the diversity initiative of NCFR. The members

of this group represented the views of former NCFR presidents, current NCFR administrative staff, Affiliate Councils, NCFR Board members, the Elections Council, the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Program, and the Conference Program Committee. The NCFR Board of Directors provided the Task Force's Charge as follows:

"The purpose of the Diversity Task Force is to identify the diversity strengths, issues and challenges of NCFR and develop a strategy and specific plans to address issues that limit the effectiveness of NCFR and its

ability to meet the needs of its members." (Diversity Task Force Charter, June 2008)

This article presents an historical analysis of NCFR diversity efforts to date. It includes the current definition under construction by the Inclusion and Diversity Committee and is presented to open a dialogue across the membership about diversity within the organization.

There have been at least five identifiable if overlapping periods of diversity initiatives within NCFR since the late 1970s that reflect

a definition of diversity continued on page 7

president's report continued from page 5

membership base and financial situation are on solid footing at this point in time, we, as an organization, cannot be lulled into complacency. The organization must push forward and anticipate the needs of our membership and future challenges. We exist in a larger marketplace of professional organizations and groups that compete for our members, and we must strive to provide members with outstanding service and benefits. As a positive example of organizational responsiveness, the Board held a special telephone meeting and unanimously approved the expenditure of funds for NCFR to purchase a new, up-to-date, content management system to build a more dynamic and member-oriented NCFR website. I am certain that Diane Cushman, NCFR's Executive Director, will be saying more about the new website in her column.

As a short aside, I must say I was a bit humbled when I viewed the videos that Jason Samuels, an NCFR staff member, made with attendees at last year's annual conference in Burlingame, California. More than 75 attendees—from first-time attendees to seasoned veterans from the Legacy Circle—responded to the question about why they come to the NCFR Annual Conference, including Allen Barton, Jan Hogan, Bonnie Barber, Claire Kamp Dush, Francisco Villarruel, Norma Burgess, Jay Fagan, Bob Milardo, Robert Reyes, Bert Adams, and Jennifer Hardesty. In many of the responses, attendees voiced what NCFR meant to them as an organization. As I viewed these videos,

my first impulse was "don't mess it up." However, no leadership mantra could be more limiting to an organization than one focused on safety and security and to simply continue what has worked in the past. Clearly, I would think that Coach Wooden would emphasize a focus on growth and adaptation through organizational renewal and development.

Second, I learned that success requires teamwork and an openness to receive the unique talents and gifts that each player brings to court. As I study the remaining teams in the men's and women's brackets, very few of these teams have one or two outstanding players behind the success of the team. Effective teamwork is a core element in their success. As evidenced from the videos with NCFR conference attendees, NCFR does a very good job of creating an opportunity structure for members' involvement and participation. Professional organizational membership is a lot more fun as a participant than as a spectator, and NCFR and the discipline and practice of family science needs as many involved players on the court as possible. As an organization, we must look for even more creative ways to engage our members in the life of the organization, as well as for ways to more effectively coordinate the work of our diverse membership.

Third, I am taught the power of humility. No team does everything well, and every team can improve its game in some way. I think that Coach Wooden would agree that we learn from both our successes and our failures,

and I believe in my heart that UNC-CH's basketball teams will enjoy greater success next season. As a professional organization, NCFR has made some mistakes in the past; we are likely to make some mistakes in the future. As a saying goes, without some risk, there is no potential gain. However, I believe that NCFR is stronger today because of risks taken and lessons learned. Importantly, we must maintain a corporate memory of our learning experiences to avoid repeating past blunders, and we must acknowledge that sometimes the source of the error lies not in the idea but in its timing. We must continually challenge ourselves with learning questions whose answers will lead to an even stronger and more effective organization. The source of these answers lies in our membership rather than with the NCFR Board. As stated in the Preface of NCFR's Governance Handbook, the "Board exists on behalf of the larger group—NCFR Members—who legally own the organization." This statement is the starting point for the Board's work.

I am a bit lost about how to bring this column to an end so allow me to conclude with a famous quote from Coach Wooden: "Success is peace of mind that is the result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming." Thanks, Coach Wooden. I am confident that the Tar Heels will regroup and that NCFR will continue to grow and prosper as an "educational forum for family researchers, educators, and practitioners."

May peace be with you and your family. ■

the evolution. These evolutionary developments grew out of discussions among a wide range of NCFR members who recognized similar discriminatory elements within the structure and culture of the organization. NCFR's efforts to address these issues culminated in the Board of Director's formation of the Diversity Task Force in June 2008. The Board of Directors subsequently approved a name change to Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

Here, the members of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee wish to lay out our current work that includes but is not limited to the Mission Statement and Definition of Diversity to clarify our role in helping to move the organization into the 21st century.

1970s-1984: Focus on diversity as gender and ethnicity

One of the first steps in addressing the issue of diversity focused primarily on women and persons of color. At the annual conference of 1971, Dr. Rose M. Somerville chaired the Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities. The brainstorming session on the gender concerns resulted in several recommendations, such as monitoring books, television programs, and NCFR's engagement in sexism.

Another step ensued in the late 1970s. Some NCFR members formed the independent Black Caucus to foster information exchange and inclusive, synergistic scholarship. One of the landmark contributions of the Black Caucus was the 1978 Special Issue on Black Families of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, edited by the late Dr. Marie Peters. Dr. Peters, along with several other colleagues, used the Black Caucus and its successor, the Ethnic Minorities (EM) Focus group, as a vehicle for presenting scholarship and theories about racial and ethnic family diversity in the United States. In that same year, NCFR members joined together in support of the focus group so that it became a formal section. That section, the Ethnic Minorities Section, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2009.

Our organization's primary diversity focus at that time was on African-American families. Through the years, attention to the scholarship about families from Latino(a), and American Indian families was included in the Ethnic Minorities Section conference programming. A shortcoming of our focus on ethnicity was that it did not include white ethnic groups or Asian American families. Scholars working in these areas have since

been welcomed into the EM Section and made significant contributions to a growing body of new knowledge regarding policies, practices and interventions related to families of color.

1984-88: Incorporation of gender into the definition of diversity within NCFR

The next stage saw a coalition composed of key members of the then Feminism and Family Studies (FFS) focus group (including Dr. Alexis Walker, Dr. Connie Shehan, Dr. Linda Thompson, and Dr. Katherine Allen), and several members of the EM Section. The coalition worked to expand NCFR's diversity agenda, resulting in the elevation of FFS to Section status within the organization.

This was a period of coalition building within NCFR. For example, in meetings to discuss the need for the FFS Section, members of that focus group and the EM section decided to join one another's groups. Long-term members will recall that, at the time, there was a charge for Section membership so that those participating in efforts of joint membership, coalition building, and knowledge exchange were making a bold public statement about the level of commitment to diversity present within significant segments of the NCFR community.

During this same period, a group of scholars joined in authoring the groundbreaking *Handbook on Family Research and Theory* (Doherty et al, Eds., 1993). Editors and authors of the handbook, an important work, deliberately integrated content on populations of color, gender, sexual orientation, and class, adding additional flavors to the standard vanilla that for years had dominated family social science.

1989– 2000: Formal national NCFR diversity initiatives emerge

For more than a decade, the Board of Directors had supported several diversity initiatives. And while the definition of diversity expanded to include persons with physical (dis)abilities, we were not as successful as we had hoped in this area. Nevertheless, several NCFR members attended diversity discussions and persisted in pressing for the need for signers and accessible venues for NCFR conferences.

The Board of Directors also moved to support a series of task forces and committees to help the organization expand its definition of diversity. In 1989, the Minority Issues Committee was charged with reviewing the organization's flagship journals: *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Family Relations*, and



Journal of Family Issues. The purpose of the review was to determine the degree to which these publications provided representative, excellent content by and about populations of color.

In 1993, the Affirmative Action Committee, initially chaired by Dr. Tony Jewett, began to meet as an ad hoc committee created by the NCFR Board of Directors. One of its first acts was to petition for a name change to the Action for Diversity Committee. The name change was to foster an understanding within NCFR that diversity was important for all members and included all groups protected under the U. S. Constitution against forms of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, and ability. The Action for Diversity Committee broadened that definition by adding sexual orientation to the list, which were dimensions fundamental to understanding family structure, functioning, and heterogeneity.

Between 1993 and 1998, a series of quarterly articles on diversity was published in the *NCFR Report* magazine. Topics ranged from the growth in scholarship on diversity issues across the social sciences to specific examples of how change within NCFR had led to the targeted inclusion of its members. It was during this period that NCFR elected its first African American president, the late Dr. Harriette Pipes McAdoo.

The Action for Diversity Committee (ADC), whose chairs included Dr. Roger Rubin and Dr. Estella Martinez, was instrumental in working with NCFR Sections, Affiliated Councils, and Focus Groups to help them identify ways in which they could address diversity issues as central to their respective missions. ADC also worked with the NCFR Board of Directors and Conference Program Committee to recommend plenary speakers and activities that would give members access to the rich array of new knowledge, methodologies, and conceptual frameworks guiding scholarship on the groups included within our definition of diversity.

a definition of diversity continued on page 8

One of the lasting contributions of the Action for Diversity Committee was its design and implementation of NCFR's first national survey on diversity issues in 1997-98. Other membership organizations have used surveys of this type to advance their diversity programming, and NCFR diversity committee members benefited greatly from examining what was being done around the nation to nurture organizations' diversity focus.

As our exposure to the range of definitions and activities on the topic of diversity evolved, we began to implement this knowledge within NCFR. The Elections Council, a standing NCFR committee, began to routinely survey kinds of leadership positions available across the organizations and receive feedback from the Board of Directors regarding under representation of people from diverse social addresses in said positions. In so doing, the organization came to recognize that our concept of diversity must include our varied occupations and disciplines. Consequently, one of the innovations introduced during the period was the Research Updates for Practitioners (RUPS) sessions at the national conference.

During 1998 and 1999, two Diversity Forums were held at the annual conference. Structured, facilitated sessions allowed conference participants to help shape the diversity discourse within NCFR. Lists of questions raised by the participants were retrieved and have become a part of NCFR's institutional memory. What is memorable about these sessions was that they were led by the sitting NCFR President.

During this phase, all members of the NCFR community shared or were exposed to the organizational focus on diversity. The range of programs, discussions, conference presentations and diversity policy development energized many members and resulted in a plethora of recommendations and the enactment of new strategies to foster diversity within NCFR.

2000- 2006: Integrating diversity within the Carver Model

With the implementation of a version of the Carver Model as an organizational administrative device, the nature of diversity initiatives within NCFR changed again. Between approximately 2000 and 2006, more formalized programs were held, including panels of selected members of the organization on a variety of topics, the establishment of the Leadership Council, an intergroup dialogue,

and a facilitated discussion on how to proceed with diversity issues within NCFR. NCFR's central administration managed the selections of speakers and topics. And while these sessions were informative, some members expressed concern that they no longer had a vehicle for sharing their own knowledge or thoughts about diversity with other members of NCFR.

This period also marked the expansion of the definition of diversity within NCFR to a focused inclusion families from countries other than the United States. The International Section had existed for some time but global family scholarship was not highlighted. The benefit of this inclusion was its impact on the way theorists and researchers thought about their commonly-utilized conceptualizations of families.

One of the topics continuously raised by NCFR officers and members has been the development of opportunities for Student/New Professionals and/or others who have not routinely been selected for NCFR offices or leadership roles. In 2004 and 2005, a series of programs entitled Leadership Councils were designed by Dr. Maxine Hammonds-Smith and Dr. Leanor Boulton Johnson and presented at the annual conferences. The Leadership Councils offered participants mechanisms for declaring their interests in NCFR leadership roles as well as opportunities to hone their existing management skills.

2006-Present: Emergence of the new Diversity Task Force

Since its inception, the Inclusion and Diversity Committee has been engaged in reviewing the history of diversity initiatives within the organization, seeking feedback from various constituencies who have maintained an interest in the construct either in their scholarship or service activities, and developing guidelines we hope will once again institutionalize a comprehensive set of diversity governance and programmatic efforts. The administration and NCFR Board of Directors have supported our efforts to construct policies and procedures to insure inclusion of all members and to recognize and honor the broader scope of diversity in our organization. With the leadership of Dr. Tammy Henderson, we are finalizing a set of objectives that we wish to support and participate in as members of NCFR. The Board of Directors will review the list of objectives developed by the Committee Policies and Procedures; the Committee hopes to have a preliminary draft by the face-to-face meeting to be held at the November 2010 conference.

One of the first tasks undertaken by the Committee was a thorough and thoughtful examination of how definitions of diversity can serve to exclude as well as include NCFR members. These deliberations were tied, in part, with the hierarchy model developed for NCFR in 2009. A definition of diversity to guide our current activities was designed by all Committee members via conference calls, electronic mail correspondence, and face-to-face meetings. The current definition that is guiding our work, recognizing that membership input and approval are forthcoming in 2010, follows.

Summer 2010:

Working definition of diversity

The Inclusion and Diversity Committee have connoted the meaning of diversity to focus on the inclusion and exclusion of NCFR members from unique social addresses and to enhance the growing knowledge and skills of professionals working with and supporting the diaspora of children, youth, adults, and families. Ours is a working definition, and the Inclusion and Diversity Committee welcomes input from all NCFR members as it is developed into a final statement. The committee seeks to enhance the capacity of NCFR members to accept, acknowledge, and respect persons whose social address include but are not limited to the following social groups:

- Ethnicity, race, national origin, culture or cultural identity, and colorism
- Gender, gender identity and expressions
- Sexual orientation, identities, and expressions
- Age
- Political affiliations
- Religious ideologies; spiritual beliefs and affiliations
- Marital status, relational status (including singlehood), and family structure or identity
- Socioeconomic status, social class, and employment
- Educational, disciplinary, or career status
- Body size and condition
- The relationship of objective and subjective worldviews and standpoints, given evolving research about and new issues facing families
- Geographical background and location
- Ability and disability, including (a) health status and physical challenges, (b) psychiatric challenges, (c) psychological challenges, (d) developmental challenges
- Veteran status and their families.

a definition of diversity continued on page 9



We're on the move!

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

No offense to the attorneys among us, but legal fees are high. NCFR's costs to trademark its new logo and protect the CFLE mark have run into five figures in the past year. Add to that the review of contracts and in total NCFR spends a significant amount of money on legal services.

In an effort to reduce those costs, I approached Winthrop & Weinstine, a Minneapolis law firm with international reach, and an attorney I know (we volunteer for the same non-profit board) for advice on *pro bono* legal services. By way of introduction to NCFR I took along copies of *NCFR Report*, *CFLE Network*, the 2009 conference program, the NCFR Honors Student Program Recognition brochure, and copies of all three NCFR journals.

These visual aids supported the story of NCFR: membership, conference, family life educator credential, and world renowned academic journals. Graphically, all the pieces matched, and literally each one spoke eloquently about the work of NCFR and you, the members. Collectively they illustrate how far we have come in "branding" NCFR as the premier professional association for the multidisciplinary understanding of families.

The folks at Winthrop & Weinstine were eager to provide *pro bono* legal services to NCFR. You will see them represented at the conference in November (a *pro bono* session on the use of intellectual property) and in early 2011 when we roll out our new website and give some visibility to our "sponsoring partners" which will include our journal editorial offices, our print firm and a select few others that make generous in-kind contributions to NCFR.

The overhaul of NCFR's website is the final element of branding NCFR. The result will be a website through which members can communicate with each other, write collaboratively, network with each other and electronically rub elbows with the world's most renowned family experts. The site will transform from a static "we talk to you" platform to a dynamic "you communicate with each other and build content" model.

The biggest change in our future will be our address. NCFR will move in July of this year to 1201 West River Parkway in Minneapolis. We will share this spot along the banks of the Mississippi River with the building's owner, the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Red Cross. Co-locating with the Red Cross,

another non-profit organization, allows NCFR to leverage multiple classrooms and meeting space, free surface parking, nearby accommodations for board members and the annual conference planning committee meeting attendees, a phone system, and 24 hour X 365 day climate control protection for our computer servers. The office space matches our needs right down to the number of workspaces and square feet. We'd like to thank Joseph Hughes of CB Richard Ellis real estate and Phil Hansen, chief executive officer for the Red Cross, for their help in finding a home for NCFR that reflects the professionalism expected by our members.

Three other quick updates — from the program side of NCFR. First, membership is at the highest point since October of 2006. After seven years of falling numbers we have gained 365 members in the last 15 months. Second, paid conference attendance was up 3.6% in 2009 from 2008. Third, Approved Academic Programs now number 116, up from 110 in 2009. These gains occurred during a time (fiscal years 2008 and 2009) when, according to *Association Trends*, nearly 37% of professional societies lost membership dues, donations and non-dues revenue and 36.1% had to dip into their reserves to get through 2009.

Staff and board members are looking forward to the June board meeting to be hosted by President Gary Bowen in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The board will focus on strategic planning with emphasis on member engagement.

The 2010 annual meeting and conference are shaping up to be outstanding. There were 559 proposal submissions, the highest number in the past 13 years. The biggest gains over 2009 were Family Health (70%), Family Policy (38%), and Research and Theory (22%). Conference Program Chair Ramona Faith Oswald convened the Planning Committee April 25 and 26 at the Minneapolis Hilton. They put the finishing touches on

a definition of diversity continued from page 8

The enhanced understanding and continual deconstruction of Diversity and inclusion in National Council on Family Relations to proceed devotedly toward greater excellence in scholarship, practice, instruction, service, and outreach to the larger society. (Revised November 11, 2009).

Next steps

Guided by our definition of diversity, we have served since 2008 to assist in its institutionalization within NCFR. Committee members are Bert Adams, William Allen, Katherine Allen, Jacki Fitzpatrick, Abbie Goldberg, Katia Goldfarb, Gladys Hildreth, Edith Lewis, Loren Marks, Robert Reyes, Bradley van Eeden-Moorefield, Soyoung

Lee (S/NP Board Representative), Maxine Hammond-Smith (Past President), Tammy Henderson, and Jeanne Strand (Staff Liaison). Our roles will eventually be held by staff and elected members of NCFR who will represent all of the groups we have included in our definition.

To date, we have developed a set of goals and objectives to guide our work. These will influence our organization's governance, programming and interactions with others in and outside of NCFR. You will be hearing about these initiatives in subsequent issues of *NCFR Report*. Until then, please feel free to forward any feedback you have for the task force to Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. ■



It's good to get out of the office

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

February proved to be a busy month for the Family Life Education department. I represented NCFR at two meetings, one in Washington DC and the other in Orem, Utah.

The Washington DC trip was sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The meeting was a "stakeholder input and strategic planning" meeting for Family and Consumer Sciences, Research, Education and Extension. **Caroline Crocoll, CFLE**, is the acting director for NIFA and invited NCFR to attend the meeting.

The meeting was scheduled for February 9 and 10, which turned out to be in the middle of the storm of the century for the DC area! The first storm had cleared so I thought it safe to travel, not realizing another storm was

on its way. The meeting was supposed to be held at the offices of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, but because the government was closed down for most of that week, we met instead at the Marriott hotel in downtown DC. It was a great lesson in adaptation with the change in location and meal options and the inclusion of many participants by conference call rather than in-person. It required patience regarding flight travel as well. Most of us were scheduled to go home on Wednesday, but did not get flights until Thursday afternoon or, in my case, Friday night! The entire city was shut down for most of Tuesday and Wednesday which resulted in an interesting energy throughout the hotel. There was a sense of camaraderie with all the out-of-towners who found themselves with nowhere to go. There really was

nothing you could do about it, so most people seemed to just go with the flow!

The goal of the meeting was to "set the strategic direction and continue gathering input from Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) leaders representing land-grant universities, Cooperative Extension Services, and key partnerships for FCS and its role in research, education, and Extension at the national level." At the end of the two-day meeting we had agreed upon a definition of family and consumer sciences, developed a tag line for NIFA, and written a vision and mission statement based on NIFA's current priorities of Childhood Obesity, Climate Change, Food Safety, Global Food Security and Hunger and Sustainable Energy.

cfle directions continued on page 11



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Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90-FH-0001. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

While I was certainly familiar with family and consumer sciences and Extension, this meeting gave me a much better understanding of the role of family and consumer sciences within the USDA and the core role of the family. As a representative of NCFR, I was able to reiterate the importance of applying a family systems perspective and incorporating research in any effort.

No sooner I had returned from Washington then it was time to travel west to visit the campus of Utah Valley University (UVU). Dr. Ron Hammond, CFLE, Assistant Department Chair of the Behavioral Science Department, had invited me to visit UVU with two goals in mind. UVU had just received approval as an NCFR-approved program in late 2009, but they wanted to be sure their program was everything it could be. I participated in several strategic planning meetings where we discussed issues around ensuring that their courses covered the CFLE content areas, marketing the new Family Science degree, and working with community agencies for practicum and internship opportunities. I've never had the opportunity to be so closely involved with the issues and concerns of a family science department before. It was tremendously helpful to me

in assessing how NCFR can better serve their needs. I also attended a luncheon with UVU staff and invited members from the community interested in involving UVU students in their agencies as interns. This meeting provided me with helpful insights as to how NCFR can provide more guidance regarding identifying and carrying out practicum and internship opportunities in the community. That will be a priority for the NCFR Family Life Education Department in the next year!

In addition to the strategic planning meeting and luncheon with community leaders, UVU held several events designed to inform potential and existing students about the availability of this new program. I presented a brief talk on family life education and the ten CFLE content areas. As often happens, students approached me to express their delight at finding out about a career option that focuses on strengthening families. They loved the analogy of working upstream and were excited to learn that there is a degree option

that focuses on prevention and education with families.

An added bonus to the trip was the fact that Dr. Hammond, in an effort to demonstrate UVU's support and value of family, invited me to bring my husband Tom along. Tom is a performance artist who is actively involved in the Minneapolis arts community and performs regularly at storytelling venues, poetry events, etc. Dr. Hammond was able to incorporate Tom into the session where I presented my talk on family life education. He presented almost an hour's worth of stories and poems that, while not written with that intention, provided a humorous and poignant view of family life. It was great fun to be able to combine work and family and I appreciated the opportunity!

Participating in these two different events proved to be very valuable to me in helping me understand both the integral role of family in the work of the USDA and the issues faced by stakeholders in university and college family science programs. There is much that NCFR can do for both constituencies. I look forward to visiting and working with other organizations in the future. ■



Left to right, Ron Hammond, Assistant Department Chair, Behavioral Science Department, Toni Harris, Associate Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Steve Clark, Chair of the Behavioral Science Dept, and Dawn Cassidy, NCFR Director of Education.

Certified Family Life Educators

January 1 and March 31, 2010. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alabama Heather Allen Jonathan Davis FULL	Bridgetta Jene' Giles-Gray Anne Rush FULL Jessica Stephens	Minnesota Julie Otto Nicole Rice	Rhode Island Riley O'Neill
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Washington DC February 10, 2010



Non-innovations: Family Studies in historical perspective

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

NCFR is now 72 years old. This year is our 25th anniversary of NCFR's conferring of the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential. We now have an impressive body of research accumulated in our scholarly journals, including an archive of our journals back to 1938. Several years ago, I decided to start an archive of my own. I collect vintage family studies and family life education publications. With books and brochures, I'm sure I have almost 200 now. I find them at used bookstores, on the internet and at estate sales.

My oldest piece, and my treasure, is a book on the sociology of the family from 1886—*The Family: An Historical and Social Study* by Charles and Carrie Thwing. I never dreamed I'd find a *family* sociology from that era—those were Durkheim days. I'd say my second favorite is from 1887—*Childhood: Its Care and Culture* by Mary Ellen West. It's a weighty 700-plus page tome. It's written from a religious perspective, but not overly so, and it's the oldest material about child development that I've ever seen. It has a chapter on children's rights—downright progressive—and one on childhood in other cultures.

The classic books by Ernest Burgess, Ernest Groves, Evelyn Duvall, and Elizabeth Force are great reading, especially when I think about how these people founded and nurtured NCFR. I've got lots of brochures from the Children's Bureau as well as scads of pamphlets on "caring for baby" that were created by hospitals to send home with new mothers. (The vintage ones were definitely aimed at mothers.) I've got some landmark scientific publications from Thomas, Chess and Birch on temperament, Dr. Spock's baby and child care classic as well as an early edition of Masters and Johnson's *Human Sexual Response*. For now, these materials are too precious to me to take out of the house. But someday, when I go to that big

"annual conference in the sky," NCFR will inherit my entire archive.

One publication made me laugh out loud—a 1938 Children's Bureau pamphlet on prenatal care. It describes the post-partum phase as the "lying-in period." It says,

"It is plain then, that the mother, no matter how well she may feel, needs a certain time of rest before she is fully able to take up her ordinary occupations and pleasures, which, if she goes back to them too early, may slow up or stop the natural restorative processes. Most women are able to sit up for an hour on the tenth day. Usually they may walk about the room in two weeks."

What a scream! When I had a C-section in 1988, my son arrived at about 9 p.m. The next afternoon the hospital drill sergeants had me standing next to my bed. On day two, I was walking the halls with my IV pole on casters. On day four we came home. I was caring for and nursing my baby while

recovering from major surgery. Now we know that immobility after childbirth makes a new mother at risk for complications such as deep vein thromboses. "Lying in" actually prolongs the recovery period.

What I expected to read when I began my collection is a compilation of this type of thing—obsolete and even laughable counsel. What I'm amazed about is just how often the vintage works got things right.

Parenting materials became more popular beginning in the 1920s, if my library is representative of the field. However, I've found that in the early 1900s and earlier, parenting advice was abundant in etiquette books! I have a book called *The New Book of Etiquette*, by Lillian Eichler, from 1934 that has a chapter specifically about etiquette for children. It is almost 100% parent education. Here are some highlights:

It is always a great temptation for an indulgent parent to yield to a child. It is so easy

report from minneapolis continued on page 13

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.

to stop a fit of crying with a candy or end a fit of childish temper with a toy. But “peace at any price” is costly in child training, and is often disastrous to the child’s developing personality.

It goes without saying that one must have the grace to overlook tiny faults that cannot possibly grow into bad habits. One must not nag youngsters until they fear to act naturally.

Infinite patience is required in the training of children. Never under any circumstances lose

your temper, or use words the child may remember and repeat, to your embarrassment.

Another fundamental on which parents can depend in teaching language to children is the passion for repetition. The same old story told for the hundredth time delights the youngster—even more than a new story—for he likes the thrill of recognizing characters and incidents.

Mothers do children a grave injustice by forcing them to wear clothes they do not like

or in which they do not feel comfortable. Every normal child is born with the urge for physical activity; and clothes that, for one reason or another, hamper this natural urge do more damage than might be supposed.

Not too bad, is it? There are “fads” in parenting opinion that have gone in and out. In the 1920s, there was real anxiety about toilet training and irregularity. Beginning in the 50s, there seemed to be a new recognition in popular materials that adolescence is a distinct stage, providing “dating” guidance. True, there are some that have made me laugh—one is a brochure on menarche for girls with the title *Modess... because*. (Because what? Menstruation was too taboo to mention, obviously. It’s no wonder many of us girls were so frightened.)

A lot of these books are revealing not for what they say—but for what isn’t mentioned. In the pamphlets I have on newborn care, the assumption is that the mother is at least middle class; the ideal equipment specified for a nursery is a list of things that wouldn’t be affordable to most parents, especially during the Great Depression. In only one of my publications have I seen a photo of African Americans. I was shocked. It was the illustration in a chapter doling out advice on posture and that slouching is poor practice. Sadly, the vintage materials make almost no mention of intimate partner violence. I have one book on advice for new husbands that barely hints at it; it mainly urges men to be kind to their wives.

The future of family studies will undoubtedly be as interesting as its history. Myths are still being debunked. The *Baby Einstein* fad is officially over. According to an October 23, 2009, article from the New York Times, Disney is now offering refunds to parents who purchased these tapes. Quoting from the article, “Despite their ubiquity, and the fact that many babies are transfixed by the videos, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time at all for children under two.”

This issue of *NCFR Report* is about “Innovations.” Your colleagues have written pieces on leading edge study on prayer, biological influences and the effects of technology on families. Our annual conference in November is on the theme of innovations as well. Looking back is fun: looking ahead will be fun, too. I can’t wait to see what the future of my field holds! Students and New Professionals—you have a special place in my heart. You will be writing the rest of my library. ■

Call for papers

Relationship Dissolution within a Contemporary Context: Implications for Education, Practice and Policy

A special issue of *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*. Marilyn Coleman, Guest Editor

by Ronald M. Sabatelli, Ph.D., Editor, familyrelations@uconn.edu

It is fair to conclude that in the past decades “marriage-like relationships” have become more diverse in the U.S. This diversity is the result of marriage rates declining and cohabitation rates increasing combined with relatively high rates of relationship disruptions and re-partnering. Furthermore, although it is impossible to document whether the number of same-sex “marriage-like relationships” have increased over the past decades, it is clear that there have been remarkable changes within this time period in the sociopolitical context surrounding lesbian and gay families.

This diverse context of contemporary “marriage-like” relationships calls attention to the need for the continuous updating of information related to the dissolution of these relationships.

The purpose of this special issue is to gather papers that explore the emotional, social, financial, and/or legal issues experienced when contemporary “marriage-like” relationships dissolve. Theoretical and empirical papers are welcome. As *Family Relations* is an interdisciplinary journal that focuses on applied issues in family studies, papers that bring to light education, practice, and policy issues are most welcome.

Potential authors are invited to contact Marilyn Coleman, Guest Editor. Professor Coleman can be contacted at ColemanMa@missouri.edu

Submission Instructions

Complete instructions for preparing and submitting manuscripts online are provided at the submission site and at <http://www.ncfr.com/fr/authors/index.htm>. There also is an online tutorial available at Scholar One Online Users Guide.

In order to route your manuscript for consideration in this special issue, **please designate Marilyn Coleman as your “preferred reviewer”** in the submission process. The “preferred reviewer box” is located at Step 4 of the electronic submission process under the heading “Reviewers.” When prompted by Scholar One, authors should upload a cover letter denoting that the paper is being submitted to the special issue.

Please follow the appropriate APA 6th edition format when submitting manuscripts online. In addition, manuscripts submitted online must be prepared for blind review. (This includes all documents uploaded into Scholar One.) Manuscripts should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages including references, tables, and figures. A \$25 processing fee also will be collected at the time of submission.

If you need further assistance, please contact the editorial office by phone at (860) 486-4726 or via e-mail at familyrelations@uconn.edu. ■

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In Memoriam—Alice Rossi

Feminist scholar and an ardent activist

Submitted by Jay Demerath, Naomi Gerstel, Michael Lewis, University of Massachusetts - Amherst



Alice S. Rossi—the Harriet Martineau Professor of Sociology Emerita at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, a founding board member of the National Organization for Women (NOW) (1966-70), first president of Sociologists for Women in Society (1971-72), and former president of the American Sociological Association (1982-83)—died of pneumonia on November 3, 2009, in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Rossi was a towering figure in American sociology as well as a nationally preeminent feminist scholar and an ardent activist. Born to German Lutheran parents on September 24, 1922, in New York, Alice Emma Schaerr was a true daughter of that city. A 1947 graduate of Brooklyn College, she earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University 10 years later, primarily under the tutelage of Robert Merton. Due to prejudicial attitudes toward women seeking faculty positions, she was employed at Cornell University, Harvard, the University of Chicago, and Johns Hopkins as a “research associate”—a position often used at the time for academic women married to someone in the same field. She did not receive her first tenured appointment until 1969, when she joined the faculty at Goucher College, and her first appointment to a graduate department did not come until 1974, when she and her husband, Peter H. Rossi, moved to the University of Massachusetts-Amherst as Professors of Sociology. She remained on the UMass faculty until her retirement in 1991.

Alice Rossi became a leader in a variety of venues. She served as Vice President of the American Association of University Professors (1974-76) and Chair of the Social Science Research Council (1976-78). President Carter appointed her to the National Commission for the Observance of International Women’s Year (1977-78), and she served on the Advisory Council for the National Institute on Aging (1985-89). There were other honors too: The Ernest W. Burgess Award for Distinguished Research on the Family (National Council of Family Relations, 1996); the Commonwealth Award for a Distinguished Career in Sociology (American Sociological Association, 1989); elected American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow (1986); and honorary degrees from six colleges and universities.

As an original thinker, Alice managed to combine her successful activism with published work that always illumined issues of consequence in the lives of contemporary women and men. Her major books include: *Academic Women on the Move* (1973); *The Feminist Papers: From Adams to de Beauvoir* (1973); *Feminists in Politics: A Panel Analysis of the First National Women’s Conference* (1982); *Gender in the Life Course* (1985); *Of Human Bonding: Parent-Child Relations Across the Life Course* (with Peter H. Rossi, 1990); *Sexuality Across the Life Course* (1994); and *Caring and Doing for Others: Social Responsibility in the Domains of Family, Work and Community* (2001).

To know Alice was to know a scholar who believed that science could and should trump ideology even in the cause of social justice. She was fearless in the face of the controversy that this belief sometimes provoked. Publishing her 1964 path-breaking article in *Daedalus*, “Equality Between the Sexes: An Immodest Proposal,” she complained of the waning of feminism and argued that

women’s primary responsibility for child rearing—indeed the making of motherhood into a full-time occupation for the first time in history—made it impossible for women “to participate on an equal basis with men in politics, occupations and families.” This article brought vituperative attacks in which she was called an unnatural woman and unfit mother, but it served as a virtual blueprint for the political and academic project called “second wave feminism.” Her several articles beginning in 1966 urging abortion rights had similar reverberations. Later, Alice immersed herself in the study of endocrinology and primatology. She concluded that to understand sex roles (a term she preferred to “gender”), scholars and proponents of equality needed to move from models of parenting based only on social causation to models recognizing the combined contributions of biology and social practices. She maintained this position despite vigorous opposition and critique from many of those who had praised her earlier work.

Anyone who had the good fortune (and courage) to work with Alice soon learned that she worked intensively to realize high standards and expected others to do the same. She was an accomplished tailor, expert gardener, and superb chef (pity the waiter who asked perfunctorily how she liked a sub-par meal). Although not always easy to get along with, she was little different from many other influential academics in this regard. An unstinting correspondent, she quickly accommodated requests by colleagues and students to review their written work. Because her detailed responses were always honest and often severe, those seeking uncritical praise quickly learned to turn elsewhere while those willing to learn hard lessons invariably concluded their work had been improved.

Even toward the end, Alice’s 87 years were marked by considerable achievement and considerable recognition. At a recent national convention of NOW she was honored as one of that organization’s two surviving founders. Delegates to the meeting went out of their way to thank her for past contributions but soon found out that the older Alice was not finished. When asked to comment on presentations, she displayed the same fire that years earlier had moved her to best Betty Friedan in a dispute over the meaning of NOW’s identifying acronym. While Friedan wanted it to be the National Organization of Women, Rossi argued successfully that it should be the National Organization for Women to indicate that men were welcome as long as they put their shoulders to the feminist wheel.

Alice held dear not only her work but also the love and life she shared with her husband, Peter H. Rossi, (also a past president of the American Sociological Association, who died in 2006), her children, Peter E., Kristin, and Nina, and her six grandchildren. At the same time, she clearly belongs in the pantheon of such pioneering 20th-century feminists as Simone de Beauvoir, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Margaret Mead, who also intertwined scholarship and activism to achieve profound influence. Alice Rossi helped to provide an important bridge from the 20th to the 21st century. As an exemplar, colleague, and friend, her passing leaves a deep loss but a far-reaching legacy.

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Family Therapy Section News

by Jeffry H. Larson, Ph.D., LMFT, Chair, jeffry_larson@byu.edu

Getting excited for the fall conference in Minneapolis? Remember the dates: November 3-6, 2010. The theme: "Families and Innovation."

I am excited to announce that we have reviewed 49 proposals for the conference for the Family Therapy (FT) section. I thank the 37 reviewers whose names will be published in the next *NCFR Report*. By now you have received notification of acceptance/rejection of your proposal. We look forward to seeing you in November!

We will need presidors, discussants and moderators for our paper sessions of the conference. If you'd like to volunteer, please send me your email address and your areas

of expertise so we can match you with a paper session on an appropriate topic (jeffry_larson@byu.edu).

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

Remember that NCFR is still accepting donations for the new **Kathleen Briggs Memorial Award** fund honoring mentors of students preparing for careers in MFT. Contact John Pepper at NCFR. (johnpepper@ncfr.org). The NCFR board has approved the award; we are just awaiting the full funding for the

award. We need \$10,000 total and have raised about \$7,000 to date. When fully funded, the \$500 award will be presented each even-numbered year.

Award winners

Congratulations to these FT section members who won awards last November, 2009, at the annual meeting:

Best Student Paper: Monica Rock, "Sexual Orientation and LGB Affirmative Training: Couple and Family Therapist Students' Beliefs." Her co-authors were Tom Carlson and Christi McGeorge, North Dakota State University.

Best Student Poster: Lauren Messina, "Race and Women's Income as Predictors of Demand/Withdraw Communication." Her co-authors were Erin Leeland Nes, Jessica Brenneman, and Leigh Leslie, University of Maryland.

Best New Professional Poster: Chingju Grace Chen, "Child versus Adult Attachment: Child Sexual Abuse Survivors and Their Partners." Her co-author was Marsha Carolan, Michigan State University.

Much thanks

...to the following individuals who provided timely and useful reviews for the 2009 NCFR conference FT section abstracts:

Megan Dolbin-MacNab	Catie Walker
Volker Thomas	Monte C. Waincott
Jared Anderson	Andrea Knestel
Cody Hollist	Jenn Matheson
C.R. Macchi	Bill Farley
Michael Sturm	Eric Hansen
Christi McGeorge	Rebecca Wright
Tom Carlson	Faline Bateman
Karen Wampler	D. Openshaw
Richard Wampler	Larry LeFlore
Kristen Benson	Melody Warnick
Jennifer Matheson	Patti Follansbee
Armeda Stevenson	David Cordova
Shayne Anderson	John Foley
Ryan Seedall	Anthony Faber
Adam Downs	Matthew Mutchler
Karly Redborn	Adrian Blow
Susan Meyerle	Heidi Radunovich
Jennifer Lambert-Shute	Raquel Delevi
Jennifer K. Crawford	

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

Family Science Section News

by Tammy Harpel, Chair, harpelt@latech.edu

I hope this column finds you all in a relaxing state of mind – but, not too relaxed. The annual conference is just five months away! I write this summer column with two overarching goals in mind – to welcome the newly elected Family Sciences officers and to encourage student submissions for the Wesley Burr Student Paper Award.

Thank you to all of you who voted in the NCFR elections! I am excited to extend a warm welcome to the incoming officers of the Family Science section. Bahira Sherif Trask was elected our chair-elect. Bahira will assume the role of Chair at the end of her two-year term as Chair-Elect in 2012. Melissa Schnurr will take over as the Secretary/Treasurer at the end of our business meeting in November. And, last but not least, H. Marissa Stone is our incoming Student/New Professional representative. I am looking forward to working with our newly elected officers during the next two years. I believe together we can move the Family Science section forward with a stronger presence and identity in NCFR!

In addition to initiating our new officers at the annual business meeting, we will also present the Wesley Burr Student Paper Award. The 2009 Wesley Burr Student Paper Award winner was Chelsea Petree of the University of Minnesota. I encourage all eligible students to enter the competition.

Students must be first author of a paper or poster accepted for presentation by the Family Science section and be members of both NCFR and the Family Science section. Students who are not currently members of NCFR and the Family Science section can enter the competition if they can prove they have joined the organization and section by the submission deadline of October 1, 2010. All eligible students will receive an email in July or August which will invite them to enter the competition and contain guidelines for the competition. Faculty advisors and mentors, please encourage your students to submit their paper! The winner of the award will receive an engraved plaque and \$200 check during the Family Science section business meeting in November.

In closing, I extend all of you wishes for a productive, but restful and relaxing, summer! ■



News from the Religion and Family Section

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

Leading scholars will explore recent developments in research and theory related to links between religiosity and family in a special session and two symposiums sponsored by the Religion and Family Section at the 2010 NCFR conference.

In the special session, Christopher G. Ellison and W. Bradford Wilcox will look at the effects of family formation and interaction on religiosity, a phenomenon seldom reported previously. 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.

Wilcox's paper, "First Comes Marriage," uses data from the General Social Survey to find that the ties between religion and family that have characterized much of the nation's history continue. For example, he finds that 21 percent of the decline in religious atten-

dance in the United States from 1972 to 2008 can be attributed to changes in American family life, especially the decline in the percentage of adults who are married with children. The study also suggests that family change has played a particularly important role in recent declines in religious attendance among specific groups in American society.

Ellison will present "The Effects of Parental Divorce on the Spiritual Experiences of Young Adults: Do They Vary by Levels of Parental Conflict?" He and his collaborators, Anthony B. Walker and Norval D. Glenn, use data from the National Survey on the Moral and Spiritual Lives of Young Adults from Divorced and Intact Families (n=1510) to gauge the net differences in aspects of religious practice, belief, identity, and experience among five groups of young adults. One key finding of their study is that children whose parents went through a rancorous

divorce are particularly critical of the religiousness of their parents, disengaged from the search for religious truth, inclined to perceive an angry or absent God, and less likely to report feelings of closeness to God.

Wilcox is associate professor of sociology and director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia. His research has been featured not only in academic publications and conferences but also in national print and broadcast media, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *CBS News*, *NBC's The Today Show*, and *NPR*.

Ellison, now at the University of Texas at San Antonio, previously was professor of sociology and director of the Center for the Scientific Study of Religion at the University of Texas at Austin. He has published more than 100 articles and chapters related to the sociology of religion and is one of the

religion and family section continued on page 19

Mid-Atlantic Council's Building Strong Families Conference celebrates 20th anniversary

This October 19, 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the Building Strong Families Conference sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations (MACFR). Please mark your calendars and plan to join us this year for an enticing exploration of the theme: Families in Economic Uncertainty. The Sociology and Anthropology Department at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, will host the conference on the campus. The theme will highlight possible challenges and resources for those studying or working with families managing and surviving in the current risk society. Topics may include maximizing family budgets, green living, dual earner households, job loss and impact on families and communities, managing debt, bankruptcy, creativity in hard economic times, pooling resources, work and family conflict, family businesses, and related matters.

MACFR is pleased to announce that the keynote address for the conference will be given by Naomi Gerstel, the Eastern Sociological Society's Robin L. Williams Jr. Lecturer for 2009-2010. Naomi Gerstel is a published author, scholar in the subfields of work-family and the sociology of carework, an accomplished researcher, and outstanding teacher. Her research has focused on family, carework, job schedules, and family-work policy. She has won many awards for her work including the Rosabeth Moss Kanter International Award for Research Excellence in Families. In addition, her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Sloan Foundation.

MACFR's annual meeting provides conference attendees with a variety of scholarly, practical, and applicable workshop sessions by presenters from a variety of fields and professions. A human services fair highlights programs and resources provided by local agencies useful for students, researchers, and those looking for meaningful service opportunities. Undergraduate and graduate students in fields related to family studies are encouraged to submit abstracts of 150 words or less to be considered for the undergraduate/graduate research poster competition and presentation. Research must be empirical and focused on families; however, it need not be directly related to the theme of families in economic uncertainty.

Each year MACFR presents one award, at the annual conference, to an individual who meets the established criteria. The Distinguished Service to Families Award recognizes a resident of the Mid-Atlantic Region (Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland) for outstanding leadership and/or service to improve family living and strengthen families. Last year's recipient was Margaret Malehorn, M.Ed., C.F.C.S., former Extension Educator, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Marg had served as an extension educator for many years tirelessly serving families. Nominations for this year's award are still being accepted until September 1, 2010.

For more information about the conference, student research poster competition, or to nominate an individual for the Distinguished Service to Families Award please contact the MACFR President Michele Lee Kozimor-King at kozimor-kim@etown.edu.

the academic program. We are continuing to arrange programming to capitalize on the attendance patterns of our members. Researchers come in early to attend the Theory Construction and Research Methodology pre-conference workshop on Tuesday so we program heavily on Wednesday and

Thursday for a research focus. Family Life Educators (FLE) and Early Childhood Family Life Educators (ECFE) tend to get release time for training on Fridays, and Marriage and Family Therapists are typically off on Saturday so Friday and Saturday tend to be heavy on practice-related research.

religion and family section continued from page 18

most highly cited researchers in the nation, according to Thomson Scientific.

Mahoney, professor of psychology at Bowling Green State University, is an associate editor of the *APA Handbook of Psychology, Religion, and Spirituality*. In collaboration with Kenneth I. Pargament, she was recently awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to fund the first in-depth, long-term study of the part religion plays in couples' transition to parenthood.

The Sacred in Families 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).

Burr reports that the foundational idea in their theorizing is that "the parts of the human experience that are perceived to be sacred have a unique, unusually powerful, and salient

influence in social and cultural conditions generally and in family life in particular." Burr notes this idea was widely appreciated in the early years of the social sciences but ignored in the conceptual frameworks and theories that became the dominant perspectives in studying families. He observed, "If scholars and practitioners want to understand and explain what makes families effective and ineffective and what helps them in important ways find successes and avoid failures it is important that sacred phenomena have a central role in theories and research."

A second symposium is *Religion and Relationships: How Religion Influences Perceptions of Sacrifice and Satisfaction in Family Relationships*. The three presentations are "The Meanings behind the Religion-Marriage Connection: Qualitative Reports from a Diverse U.S. Sample," by Loren Marks and David C. Dollahite; "Giving up Something Good for Something Better: Sacred Sacrifices Made by Religious Youth," by David C. Dollahite and Anthony B. Walker; and "I Gave It up for You and I Am Glad I Did: Prayer Increases Satisfaction with Sacrifice in Close Relationships," by Nathaniel M. Lambert, Frank D. Fincham, and Scott Stanley.

In our member profile update campaign this spring, the lucky winner of the Apple iPad was 20-year member and CFLE Marcia Galazzi. Almost 900 members updated their online profile. Thank you! Forty percent of our members have a doctoral degree; seventy-eight percent identified their primary employer as a university or college academic department; and forty-four percent indicated they learned about NCFR from a colleague. The information from the member profiles in the membership database is going to help your NCFR staff develop valuable programming to meet your development and professional needs. We will mine the data and listen to your suggestions to make NCFR the professional home that you value above all others.

See you in Minneapolis in November. ■

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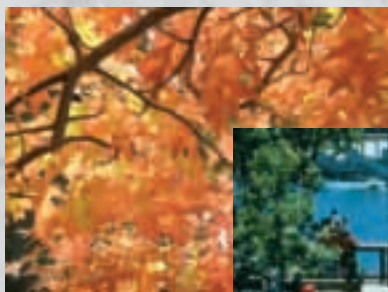
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2010 Annual Conference

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in this issue:

**Family Focus on...
Innovations**

Harriette Pipes McAdoo—In Memoriam

by Mary Jo Czaplewski

Harriette Pipes McAdoo, former NCFR President, NCFR Fellow, and leader passed away unexpectedly on December 21, 2009. She was a renowned scholar and Distinguished Professor at Michigan State University.

She and her husband, John, who preceded her in death, collaborated with Marie Peters, David Baptiste and Robert Staples in organizing the "Minority Caucus" which became the Ethnic Minorities Section of NCFR. She became chair of that Section. Harriette was the first recipient of the Marie Peters Award for outstanding scholarship focusing on Black families in 1982.

NCFR members will remember Harriette for her long dedication to NCFR and the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family, and the many leadership roles she held in both organizations. Perhaps, more importantly, she will be remembered by many as a mentor of students and young scholars. In addition, Harriette contributed a prolific body of research on Black children and families worldwide. She studied families in Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Kenya, in addition to those in the United States. She contributed much research to both of NCFR's journals, and published several books, many now in their fourth and fifth editions.

As NCFR Program Chair in 1985, Harriette chose the conference theme of "*Enriching Families: Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Networks*," which was held in Dallas, Texas, with record attendance. During President Carter's term, she served as his national advisor for the *White House Conference on Families* which took place in 1980. During that time she was also acting Dean at Howard University School of Social Work.

During her year as President of NCFR, Harriette represented NCFR at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, accompanied by Margaret Feldman and Mary Jo Czaplewski. She had also attended the previous Women's Conference in Nairobi 10 years earlier. As President, Harriette encouraged public policy and research and the recruitment of international scholars to join NCFR. After her husband John's death in 1994, she helped the Ethnic Minorities Section establish the John Lewis McAdoo

Dissertation Award, for outstanding dissertation research on ethnic minority families.



Her contributions to the profession also included leadership roles in Groves Conference on Families, American Psychological Association, American Sociological Association, and Society on Research in Child Development, in addition to faculty leadership positions at Howard University, the University of Minnesota, University of Washington, Smith College and Michigan State University.

As a long time board member of Groves, Harriette made significant contributions to the organizational structural/operational and intellectual content of the organization. She persistently sought the inclusion of ethnic minorities in the membership and decision-making process of the organization. Twice she served as program chair. In 1983 she organized the conference, "*Family Ethnicity: Strength in Diversity*." This led to expanded study of ethnic diversity and families by utilizing family oral histories. In 2003 she chaired a conference in Miami Beach, Florida, on "*Cuban Families: Miami & Cuba*," only after being thwarted by U.S. government travel restrictions from hosting the conference in Cuba itself. Both of these conferences reflect her energy and engagement in expanding the family science field into new frontiers.

Coming from a long line of educators and community leaders, Harriette instilled solid values for education, music, community service, spirituality, and family in her children Michael, John, Julia, and David who are all professionals. She was close to her five grandchildren and to her siblings. She was adored by her students, former and current. She loved to sing, listen to fine music and she appreciated fine art.

Memorial services were held at East Lansing on December 29, 2009. However, a special memorial service honoring Harriette will be held at the NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis in November.

Memorial contributions may be sent to either the Pipes McAdoo Endowment Fund at Michigan State University (use code AE0051 on the memo line) or to NCFR to the John McAdoo Award Fund.