

Report

Winter 2010 // Volume 55.3

In this issue:

The Best of Report

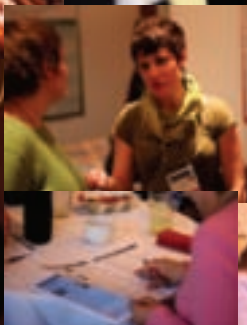
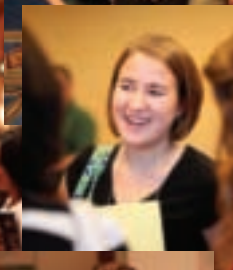
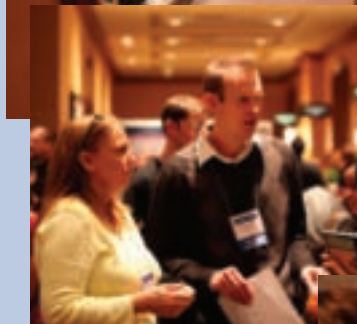
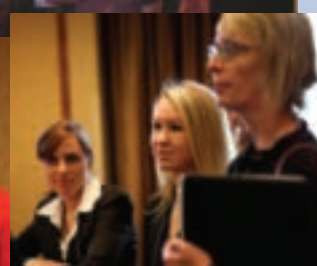
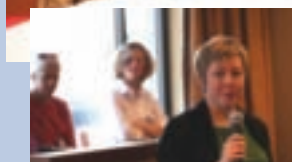
pages F1 – F40

In this issue of *NCFR Report*, we have collected some of the best articles from the Family Focus section and republished them in this double issue. We hope you enjoy this anthology assembled by Guest Co-editor Alexis Walker and staff Editor Nancy Gonzalez.

Annual Conference 2010

Thank you to all who attended...
here are the milestones:

- More than 1200 participants, the best in a decade.
- The Silent Auction that roared. Approximately \$3,500 was raised to fund student awards.
- Silver anniversary for CFLE...25 years of teaching families, changing lives.
- Major thanks to our plenary sponsors: University of Illinois, University of Georgia, University of Minnesota.
- From leading researchers and authors to college students, the conference attracted a variety of participants whose interests are as diverse as their backgrounds and experience. Yet they are all focused on topics that yield a common benefit—understanding and strengthening families.



Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

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

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

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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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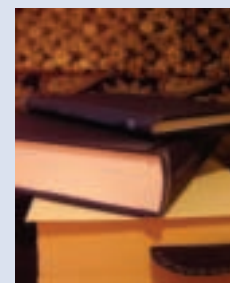
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On the bookshelf

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



R.L. Dalla., L. M. Baker, J. DeFrain, & C. Williamson (Eds.). *Global Perspectives on Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: Africa, Middle East, Asia, & Oceania*. Landham, MD: Lexington Publishers, Inc.

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

Susie Marion Hill (2011). *My Secret Weapon: Unlocking the Explosive Inner Power of a Woman*. Helping Hands Press.

Mary Ann Lamanna and Agnes Riedmann (2012). *Marriages, Families, and Relationships: Making Choices in a Diverse Society* (11th edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage.

H. McCubbin, K. Ontai, L. Kehl, L. McCubbin, et al (2010). *Multiethnicity and Multiethnic Families, Development, Identity and Resilience*, Honolulu, HI; Le'a Publication Series, Xlibre

Linda Nielsen (2008). *Between Fathers and Daughters: Enriching and Rebuilding Your Adult Relationship*. Nashville, TN: Turner Publishing Company.

Brian Powell, Catherine Bolzendahl, Claudia Geist, and Lala Carr Steelman (2010). *Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definitions of Family*. Russell Sage.

Karen H. Sherman (2010). *Mindfulness and the Art of Choice: Transform Your Life* (second edition). Loving Healing Press.

SNP News

Looking for a way to get involved within NCFR?

Then getting involved in the Student/New Professional (SNP) Leadership Council is a great place to start! The SNP Leadership Council Steering Committee is composed of the SNP Board Representatives, SNP Conference Program Representative, SNP Affiliate Councils Representative, Student Affiliate Representative, 12 SNP section representatives, and 20 student affiliate presidents.

What tips do current members of the SNP Leadership Council have for getting involved? Why did current members choose to get involved? What are the perks of getting involved in the SNP Leadership Council? Let's hear from some of the council members themselves...

"I was relatively new to NCFR and was kind of overwhelmed by the number of opportunities to get involved. Becoming the SNP Rep for the Affiliate Councils Board was a great way to focus my efforts while meeting

student and professional members from around the country (and world!)." *Amanda Williams, SNP representative on the Affiliate Councils Board*

"I attended my first NCFR conference in 2005 and immediately felt welcomed by the members of the Feminism and Family Studies (FFS) section. After a few years of attending the conference and the FFS section meetings, I decided that I would like the opportunity to serve the same community that welcomed me in hopes of engaging and involving new students and professionals in this incredible network of scholars." *Russell Toomey, SNP representative, Feminism and Family Studies Section*

What are some tips for getting involved in the SNP Leadership Council?

"I would highly encourage students and new professionals to attend the business meetings,
a way to get involved continued on page 10



Honoring NCFR members who pass away

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

I have been a member of NCFR since 1977, and I have always appreciated the celebratory nature of NCFR as an organization. As a group, we are quick to recognize, both formally and informally, one another's accomplishments and successes, as well as one another's positive life transitions. The focus of the Spring 2010 issue of *NCFR Report* on mentoring stories is a wonderful example of the respect and appreciation that NCFR members demonstrate for one another. Such attention to professional development and colleague support is a hallmark of great professional organization, and we are indebted to the leadership of Nancy Gonzalez who edits the *NCFR Report* for profiling these stories.

On other hand, I have also greatly respected the response of NCFR members to those members in need of support and care. NCFR members face the same challenges of life as other people as they confront problems ranging from career disappointments to acute and chronic health challenges to the sickness and death of a family member. I am appreciative when I receive word about an NCFR member who is facing a difficult situation and who needs special encouragement and support. For example, I recently received word about a member who is undergoing treatment for cancer, and I was able to join an online support circle for the individual. And yes, in

any given year, we usually have members who pass away. In some cases, these deaths are unexpected and catch us by surprise.

Since I assumed office as president in November 2009, we have experienced the loss of four high-profile NCFR Leaders: Margaret Feldman, Harriette P. McAdoo, Leland J. Axelson, and Maxine Hammonds-Smith. Margaret served for many years as NCFR's policy representative in Washington, D.C., and Harriette, Lee, and Maxine were former NCFR presidents. All were members of NCFR's Legacy Circle. An NCFR memorial service at the 2010 Annual Conference recognized the contributions and honored the memory of each one.

The rapid succession of these recent losses to NCFR confronted the current NCFR Board with the need to formalize the organization's protocols for recognizing members who pass away. At present, members who pass away are recognized at the annual business meeting, with articles/obituaries in the *NCFR Report*, and, if a past president, in *Zippy News*. Nancy Gonzalez is NCFR's point person for NCFR's communications about the death of members. However, some deceased members have a formal memorial service at the NCFR Annual Conference, either sponsored by a Section, by NCFR, or informally by a group of special colleagues and friends. Others do not. For Maxine, I drafted a mes-

sage on behalf of the Board, which was read by Leonor Boulin Johnson who represented NCFR at the funeral. This is the first such formal statement that I have drafted on behalf of the Board for the funeral of a member.

It is important that we acknowledge and honor in some way all members who pass away for their membership in and service to the organization. In this context, the Board would appreciate your thoughts about when NCFR should go beyond what is typical for a member who passes away, which at a minimum is to acknowledge the loss at the Annual Business Meeting. At the September Board meeting, some of the following questions were raised:

- When does NCFR sponsor a formal memorial service?
- When do the Sections have their own internal memorial service?
- When does NCFR send flowers?
- What does NCFR send a representative to the funeral to speak on behalf of NCFR?
- What does NCFR write a formal statement from the Board or NCFR Headquarters?
- When and if does the Board President attend a funeral?

Of course, in no way, does NCFR pre-empt what any single member or group of members may decide to do in special recognition of a deceased colleague. Here we are addressing the formal protocols of NCFR. It is awkward not to have a formal policy to maintain an expected standard of formal organizational response.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board to share your thoughts. Your Board members are listed on the front inside cover of this issue of *NCFR Report*.

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

May peace be with you and your family. ■

Thank you donors

NCFR thanks the following persons for their generous donations to the organization from July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010.

Louise Alderson	Wm. Michael Fleming	Fr. Dietrich Pendawazima
William D. Allen	Adan C. Garcia	Kennon Rider
Debrah L. Berke	M. Janice Hogan-Schiltgen	Hailey Stout
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Akosua Dhfa Eghan	Glen L. Palm	John M. Williams
Judith L. Fischer		Sue E. Williams

Vote and nominate!



by Katherine R. Allen and Stephan M. Wilson, NCFR 2011 Elections Council Co-Chairs

Get involved in the leadership of YOUR organization!

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

VOTE...upcoming elections are in February 2011

The Elections Council wants to encourage ALL members to vote in February 2011. We have submitted a nomination slate (ballots will be mailed to members in February 2011) for terms that will be filled at the end of the national meeting in Orlando, Florida in November 2011. The nominees are:

Board President-Elect (2011-2013) – President (2013-2015)

Paul R. Amato – PA or Jay A. Mancini – GA

Board Member-at-Large (2011-2014) (three positions)

I. Joyce Chang – MO or Edith A. Lewis – MI
Thomas Stone Carlson – ND or Brad van Eeden-Moorefield – MI
Carolyn S. Henry – OK or Shulamit Ritblatt – CA

Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect (2011-2012) – Student/New Professional Board Representative (2012-2014)

Lyndal Bee Lin Khaw – IL or Amanda L. Williams – OK

Affiliate Councils President-Elect (2011-2013) – Affiliate Councils President (2013-2015)

Rose Allen – MN or Stephen Green – TX

Program Chair Elect (2011-2012) (Program Chair for 2013 Conference)

Judith L. Fischer – TX or Jennifer Kerpelman – AL

Elections Council (2011-2014) (two positions)

April Few-Demo – NC or Maresa J. Murray – IN
Rochelle Dalla – NE or Gary W. Peterson – OH

NOMINATE YOURSELF/OTHERS...February 2012 Slate; nominations due January 31, 2011

The Elections Council wants to encourage ALL members to nominate someone for the February 2012 slate. As you think about who would serve NCFR well, please give serious consideration to nominating yourself as well as others. Here are the Selection Criteria (Source: NCFR By-Laws, March 2010, Article IX, Section 2, B 3) to help you decide whether you would be willing to be nominated and/or to identify potential candidates for the upcoming election:

- Knowledge and/or experience in areas reflecting broad trends in Family Studies in the United States and internationally;
- Knowledge and/or experience with policy governance and the development of ENDS policies;
- Knowledge and/or experience in leadership roles through Sections, Affiliate Councils, Elections Council, Conference planning,

publishing, public policy or other committee work;

- Diversity in race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender, age, physical ability or religion;
- Diversity of geographic location;
- Diversity in educational training;
- Diversity in employment and/or professional settings; and
- Specific characteristics identified by the Board of Directors and charged to the Elections Council before the call for nominations is developed and circulated.

Keeping these criteria in mind, we invite self-nominations and nominations of others for the following positions for the next slate to be elected in February of 2012. The terms for these positions will begin November 2012 at the end of the annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect 2012-2013

The Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect serves a one-year term as a non-voting member of the Board. After serving their one-year term this position will move to the position of Student/New Professional Board Representative and serves a two-year term as a voting member of the Board of Directors. During their one-year term, the S/NP Board Representative-Elect will learn about the organization and their roles as the future S/NP Board Representative by shadowing and assisting the current S/NP Board Representative and S/NP Program Representative.

Conference Program Chair-elect 2012-2013 (Program Chair for 2014 Conference)

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

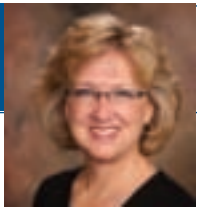
Elections Council Members 2012-2015 (two positions open)

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

Fellows Committee 2012-2015 (three positions open)

The Fellows Committee shall review the applications from nominees for NCFR Fellow status. During the NCFR Annual Conference, discuss and vote on which applicants will be recommended to the Board of Directors.

Again, become involved in leadership positions of our organization. Consider what your involvement will be. Send nominations to Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. For additional information, please review our website, www.ncfr.org. **Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2011.**



The challenge of providing “knock-your-socks-off” programming for our members

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

Accolades reigned from those attending the 2010 conference in Minneapolis this past November 3-6. The energy level began high and remained so through the last day. Turn-out—1,200 people—was the highest since 2000. The post-conference survey has been distributed. We are eager to incorporate attendee feedback into the conference improvement process.

Dr. Ramona Faith Oswald and the planning committee are to be commended for assembling a stellar cast of presenters. The social events were lively and section business meeting attendance was high. The Student/New Professionals and Affiliate Councils did outstanding work and their session attendance figures attest to their success at engaging their constituencies.

Room for improvement

Two years ago, I asked the members of my research advisory council (eight of our most widely cited members) what NCFR gets right or nearly right for researchers. They responded in unison and with feeling, “The journals!” The Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) pre-conference workshop was mentioned. Then there was a long pause.

We weren’t doing any better on the practitioner side. The post-conference surveys from 2007, 2008 and 2009 revealed that practitioners were not always finding what they wanted at the conference.

The consistent message has been “not enough practice for practitioners and not enough research for researchers.” One might wonder, “How can we deliver 500 unique presentations at each conference and yet not provide enough content for either researchers or practitioners?”

Let me stop here to say that the conference program chair and section chairs who comprise the program planning committee are following the program development guide-

lines. They are doing everything asked of them and more.

Long-time members and staff say it has always been this way. This is an expected result in a multidisciplinary professional association. Certainly, providing programming that knocks the socks off all of the various constituencies within NCFR is both challenging and rewarding.

Who you are

The staff’s approach to member programming is “something for everyone.” A one-size-fits-all model will not work for NCFR. Neither will offering up loads of programming in the hope that there will be enough to meet the needs of each member.

We must put together a systematic, thoughtful process based on an accurate understanding of who members are and what they want and expect from NCFR. As a first step in 2009, the NCFR staff put in place a more rigorous member database to capture your “attributes.” We held what will become an annual member database population campaign. Clearly defining members by area of expertise, employer type and primary professional activity gives us the information we need to become consciously competent at getting it right.

Historically, we have put researchers and practitioners in two categories. Yet when we drill down we find that you are administrators, teachers, researchers, consultants, students (graduate and undergraduate), therapists, and policymakers from disciplines as wide-ranging as social work, psychology, demography, anthropology, health, sociology, criminal justice, human development, clergy and family science. No doubt, there are many more.

Further, we know that the majority of our members (77%) work in college or university academic departments. Additionally, most work in more than one setting, including the courts, correction system, community, pre-K through 12 education, human service

agencies, military, health clinics, faith-based organizations, government, university extension and private practice.

Add your subject interests to the mix—93 in the membership database—and you can see the magnitude of the challenge we face. How do we make the conference experience professionally fulfilling for 1,200 attendees?

Here are just some of the topics we are looking at: child development, work/life, fatherhood, parent education, adolescence, family strengths, gender, aging, cross cultural families, research methods, poverty, health and wellness, sexuality, religion and families, family life education, marriage education, therapy, divorce, ethnicity, single parent families, motherhood, caregiving, intimate partner violence, abuse, adoption, family law, teaching methods, family theory, grief and loss, intergenerational issues, GLBT issues, immigration and families and military families.

What’s changing

The road to change involves continuous quality improvement and more. We are convening a work group, the conference program advisory council and making changes in the 2011 submission process. We know accomplished scholars were turned away in the past and that some no longer submit proposals. We want to turn this around.

We also know that not all sessions meet attendee expectations for quality. Changes under consideration for 2011 and 2012 to address these issues include:

- Streamlining questions on the submission form
- Requiring learning objectives after a proposal is accepted rather than at the time of submission
- Expanding guidelines for reviewer scoring so they are readily available on the scoring form

executive report continued on page 6



Founding Committee recognized at CFLE 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

cfle

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

Over 160 people attended the CFLE Dinner in Minneapolis on November 3. The evening provided an opportunity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation and to recognize the people responsible for its success.

The program consisted of a number of updates regarding the status of the program and current and future projects. CFLE Forum Facilitator, **Bryce Dickey**, provided information on some of the projects planned for 2011 including a Practitioners Resource Library and a Career Center promotion specifically for practitioner positions. CFLE **Tammy Whitten** shared information on the implementation of a Family Life Education Month, slated for February. **Sharon Ballard**, Chair of the CFLE Advisory Board, presented a report of the activities of the Advisory Board

over the past year. **Mary Bold**, NCFR Academic Program Liaison, presented information on NCFR's plans for a clearing house of NCFR-approved academic courses available online. **Lane Powell**, Chair of the Academic Program Review Committee, recognized eight schools with newly approved CFLE programs, and 14 renewed programs.

The evening also provided an opportunity to launch the newly revised **Family Life**

Education Framework poster. **David Bredehoft** and **Michael Walcheski**, both of Concordia University in St. Paul, MN, have continued their service to NCFR by editing the third edition of the FLE Framework. The new poster and PowerPoint are now available for purchase via the NCFR website.

The highlight of the evening came under the capable emceeing skills of former NCFR

cfle directions continued on page 7

executive report

continued from page 5

These small but important changes will make the submission process less time-consuming without compromising the review process.

Finally, we plan to add programming in 2011 (that will subsequently be posted to the NCFR website) sponsored by the Family Science Section on how to prepare a conference submission.

New board members

Each November, leadership terms expire and others begin. We thank those members who have served; we encourage them to continue to lead and we welcome new leaders into elected positions. Glen Palm, Soyoung Lee, and Deb Berke leave the NCFR board.

Andrew Behnke, Jennifer Hardesty and Maureen Perry-Jenkins begin their terms. NCFR's board members are a reflection of the outstanding membership enjoyed by this organization.

Thank you all. ■

Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between July 1 and October 31, 2010. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

California

Sierra Hugger

Colorado

Meredith O'Keeffe

Florida

Brittney Martin

Georgia

Kristin LeBlanc

Illinois

Jaclyn Cores

Indiana

Joshua Britton
Mechele Schlabach

Louisiana

Cheryl Lantron

Maryland

Elaine Pollack

Michigan

Samantha Blue
Paul Easterday
Sharron Elliott
Amber Hamilton
Ryan-Marie Huntley
Marti Jane Jensen
Matthew Koch
Robin Millar
Cheryl Schneider

Minnesota

Heather Ingersoll
Carol Matthews (full)

Mississippi

Logan Gibbons
Lisa Lowery

Missouri

Lavonne Dawson-Pappert
Tamecia Murray

Nebraska

Amy Hegarty

Nevada

Robyn Maitoza

New Mexico

Kate Fitzpatrick (full)

New York

Janelle Cumro
Jamie DeNucci
Charreah Jackson
Lauren Maietta

Ohio

Ashley Clay
Christie Cohrs
Ashley Plymire

Oklahoma

Debbie Richardson (full)

Tennessee

Kimberly Buckner
Anna Lahrs

Texas

Jacqueline Batcha
Mary Ford
Douglas Garrett
Mary McCormick
Rachel Pride
Linda Russell (full)
Jennifer Schroeder

Utah

Erin Allred
Christine Scheidell Davis
Daniel Gudmundson

Virginia

Lawrence Compter (full)

Washington

Elizabeth Renner

West Virginia

Angela Faulkner

Wisconsin

Kathleen Helgeson (full)

Canada

(Prince Edward Island)
Leanne King

Germany

Jeffrey Crosson (full)



Section Award Winners 2010

International Section

Jan Trost Award

George Kurian, University of Calgary, emeritus

Research & Theory Section

QFRN Focus Group – Anselm Strauss Award

Laura M. Funk, Kelli I. Stajduhar

Men in Families Focus Group – Best Research Article Award

Philip A. Cowan, Carolyn Pape Cowan, Marsha Line Pruett, Kyle Pruett, Jessie J. Wong

Men in Families Focus Group – Best NP Research Article Award

Katherine Stamps Mitchell, Alan Booth, Valarie King

Education & Enrichment Section

Student Proposal Award

Karen Bluth, University of Tennessee-Knoxville. *Reducing Parenting Effort Through Mindfulness: An Innovative Approach*

Student Proposal Award

A. Mercedes Nalls, Florida State University. *New Directions in Identity Research: Siblings as Identity Agents*

Student Proposal Award

Richard Feistman, University of Missouri. *Applying Inclusive Contextual Programming: Adult Relationship Education*

Ethnic Minorities Section

S/NP Best Paper Award

Ronald B. Cox, Jr., Oklahoma State University. *Do Mother and Father Involvement Differentially Effect Age of First Drug Use? A Mediational Analysis of Peers and Youth Aspiration by Ethnicity and Acculturation*

Family & Health Section

Outstanding Professional Paper Award

Brenda Lohman, Iowa State University. *Adolescent Overweight and Obesity: Links to Food Insecurity and Individual, Maternal, and Family Stressors*

Outstanding S/NP Paper Award

Amber Seidel, Purdue University. *Spouse Control and Diabetes Management in Later Life Couples: Moderating Effects of Dyadic Appraisals of Spouse Involvement and Gender*

section awards continued on page 13

cfle directions continued from page 6

President **Sharon Price**. Sharon was a member of the original *Committee on Standards and Criteria for the Certification of Family Life Educators*. This Committee developed the CFLE Standards and Criteria, over 25 years ago. Eight of the original 14 members were able to attend the CFLE Dinner! In recognition of the tremendous contribution the Committee has made to NCFR and to families everywhere, the Committee was presented with the CFLE of the Year award. CFLE Advisory Board Chair, Sharon Ballard presented the group with a crystal plaque which included the names of all of the Committee members. The plaque will be displayed at the NCFR headquarters in Minneapolis.

The Committee worked very hard over a number of years and at their own personal cost to develop the CFLE criteria. Sharon

shared that while the group worked very hard, they also took the time to have some fun. Apparently there was a tradition of circulating a Ken doll, (in honor of the Committee Chair, Ken Davidson), from meeting to meeting. Each person bestowed with the doll had to bring it to the next meeting with a new outfit. I was extremely honored when Ken retrieved the doll from the shoe box in which it had been stored for the past many years and presented it to me! While a light-hearted tradition, the significance of being trusted with the doll was not lost on me!

All in all it was a wonderful evening and an opportunity to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the importance of the CFLE designation in promoting family life education. ■



Straddling the stratifications: confessions of an SES underdog

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

Editor's note

This column ran in the March 2007 issue of NCFR Report. It's special to me—not because it's of any literary value—but because by writing it, I “met” Alexis Walker. She called NCFR Headquarters to tell me about her working-class background and how fun it was to recognize herself in my story. I heard from many other members, too, who trusted me with their stories. What I learned is this: no matter who you are or where you're from, you will find community at NCFR.

In an article published by the Princeton-Brookings Future of Children organization, Isabel Sawhill and Sara McLanahan describe an informal poll given to several scholars. These researchers were asked an interesting question: If you could be born with the ability to choose one of the following advantageous characteristics for yourself—race, class, gender or national origin—which would you choose? The vast majority chose “class.”

From “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” to Horatio Alger, it's amazing how often the story is told of a naive but earnest protagonist from the lower strata who aspires to and arrives at a respectable station in life. Bernard Shaw's 1916 opus major, *Pygmalion*, has been rewarmed and served-up on stage and screen productions such as “My Fair Lady,” “Tammy and the Bachelor,” “Educating Rita,” and “Maid in Manhattan,” just to name a few.

Alexis de Tocqueville notwithstanding, social class in the U.S. matters big time. The interminable capacity of the Cinderella story to appeal to the collective unconscious speaks to the enduring awareness of social class. The fact that this story reemerges from Broadway or Hollywood every few years is evidence that this sentiment resonates with people in powerful ways. I'm sure if the late Joseph Campbell were still

with us, Bill Moyers could get him to wax poetic about the ancient mythological archetype that got all of this started.

Cues and clues as to one's social class are everywhere. In just a few paragraphs, you've learned a lot about me; that I've read *Democracy in America*. That I've studied Carl Jung. That I'm a fan of the PBS *Power of Myth* series. What you don't know is that wherever I am now, I arrived here via Turnip Truck. If you're interested in how it feels to come from the rural lower class, bandana-on-stick, and get off the bus at a major university, read on.

When I left the farm, I might as well have called a travel agent and asked for a ticket to Humiliation Island. My hometown is on the Minnesota-Canadian border and about as remote an area as there is in the continental U.S. There was only one TV station, and the reception was snowy on a good day. I don't think the school library had ordered a new book since the Hoover administration. If there were any major newspapers around, I never saw them. Without any of the home “concerted cultivation” described by sociologist Annette Lareau, my level of cultural literacy was pathetic.

The first week of college should have been a clue. An orientation adviser asked if I was interested in “the Greek system.” Since I didn't know what that meant, I said “no” which, fortunately, was the best answer. New acquaintances asked me if I would be going through “rush” at one of the sororities. I had no idea what a sorority was or what all of the hurry was about. Afraid I would miss some important deadline, I visited one of the houses and asked a few questions. After their brief sales pitch, I asked why anyone would live in a sorority house when the dorms were so much cheaper. They all exchanged glances. I knew I had just stepped on my first social landmine. Some nice person

added that the term “Greek” referred to the “Pan-Hel” system—which offered me no further clarification. I still didn't know what the Pan-Hel they were talking about.

Miraculously, I managed to get a B.A. in psychology and an entry-level position as one of the university's academic advisers. Although I was a caring adviser and particularly empathetic towards those from Hoedown Junction, I had entered another world—the professional workplace, in academia no less—and experienced regular reminders that I was once again destined to walk life's metaphorical halls smelling of turnips.

I would have washed out within a year had I not had the knack for identifying compassionate cultural translators who took pity on me. One such mentor was my boss of 10 years, who was raised in the upper middle class. Jackie knew the rules. A decade of her coaching early in my career was the best educational experience of my life. Here is a hypothetical illustration; I would attend a meeting with other student services professionals such as the university's admissions officers. Let's say we were discussing student admission criteria. One of them would make a comment such as, “I just don't know which way to go; how do we make the right decision now that we have both Brown *and* Bakke?” Everyone around the table would sigh and nod knowingly—so I would nod too. On my notepad I quickly wrote “Ask Jackie... Brown/Bach-y.” In the intervening week until the next meeting, Jackie would clue-me-in. I would find out everything I could about *Brown vs. the Board of Education* and the *Bakke* decision. News of Supreme Court rulings never made it to northern Minnesota. It was as if I'd spent my childhood on Neptune.

Today when I hear an unfamiliar cultural reference, I can fill in the blanks in 30 seconds using Google or Wikipedia. But I still feel

report from minneapolis continued on page 9

the sting of class differences, especially where the social graces are concerned. Social occasions back home meant potluck dinners at church. Meatloaf and mashed potatoes were served buffet style. Paper plates were de rigueur; for really special occasions, we'd upgrade to the deluxe cardboard type with three discrete sections. Until I left home, I had never heard of an eggroll, a bagel or a croissant. Fresh produce isn't readily available in remote areas in the winter. Consequently, potluck "salads" consist of a vat of lime green gelatin, with canned fruit cocktail suspended in it, garnished with a few carrot shavings on top. Comedian Louie Anderson (also a product of the Minnesota proletariat) made a hilarious observation about this ubiquitous local foodstuff: he says it looks like someone's aquarium froze up.

Changing castes is not an event but a process. Every now and then, I still find an embarrassing gap in my Eliza Doolittle database. Since I began working at NCFR, I've identified several kind cultural translators who are willing to help. BYU Professor Alan Higgins, er, I mean Hawkins had to teach me how to pronounce Retrouvaille. And until I began traveling for NCFR and staying in nice hotels, I didn't know about the chocolate on the pillow thing. I remember the first time a hotel staffer knocked on my door and asked if I'd like to be "turned down." I gave her the "thousand-yard stare." To my ears, that question sounded as preposterous as "Would you like to be slapped?"

What do lower class folk need to make it? University of Minnesota researcher Ann Masten's work brilliantly and scientifically identifies the protective factors for resilience. Read her work—it's fascinating. For what my anecdotal experience is worth, I've found that SES underdogs need to find four things: financial supports, cultural interpreters, a sense of humor and the relentless drive to learn—even if it means humiliation.

None of my life trajectory would have occurred without access to education—and access was possible only because of financial support. I couldn't afford a down payment on a free lunch. Virginia Woolf wrote that in order to develop her potential, she needed a "Room of One's Own." What the title to her book doesn't disclose is that the "room" was provided by an aunt who left her a generous endowment. College tuition is outrageously out-of-reach for the Nancys of today and burdensome for even middle class kids.

Tuition increases have been outpacing inflation for years. Financial aid, when it is to be had, is increasingly offered in the form of loans vs. grants. This issue needs immediate and dramatic attention from policymakers. Most of the financial supports I had are no longer available. I received more grants than loans. Then, as a junior, my father became disabled. Back in the early 80s, Social Security benefits were available to support full-time college students of disabled parents.

With any gap in these opportunities, I would have needed quick training to generate income right away. I would be working today in an honorable but my second choice profession: cosmetology.

Even education doesn't close the gap entirely. Cultural mentors are essential. In a series of articles from the *New York Times*, journalists spent over a year covering some of the

report from minneapolis continued on page 10

Greetings from the Guest Co-Editor

by Alexis Walker, Ph.D., Oregon State University, walkera@oregon.edu

What a joy to work with editor Nancy Gonzalez on the *NCFR Report* All Star edition! Since she began editing *NCFR Report* in 2006, Nancy has elevated the reach and success of the *Family Focus* segment, attracting leaders in the field and bringing enhanced visibility both to the broader discipline of family studies and specifically to NCFR. Indeed, in addition to our own experts, she managed to recruit a pro bono essay from a Pulitzer Prize winner. I have become a huge fan of the "Focus" pages and have been encouraging NCFR to draw greater attention to *Focus* by using it as NCFR's public face. The articles in *NCFR Report* are of great interest to NCFR's constituents but can also address major questions for members of the broader community: In which ways does divorce affect child well-being? How does social class and poverty affect families? How can non-co-residential parents do a better job with their children? These are a few of the many topics addressed in *NCFR Report* over the past few years in an engaging and informative way by noted experts. Many of our sister organizations include scientific information for the public on their websites and *Focus* would be an ideal way for NCFR to do that.

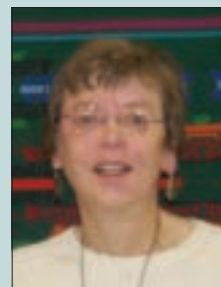
In the meantime, I was thrilled to celebrate the anniversary of the series by working with Nancy to choose a handful of articles to feature in this issue. The task was extremely difficult as each was enlightening. In the end, we did what any sensible editor would do: develop relevant criteria and then use those criteria to make our selections.

Nancy began by identifying articles that received the most attention and audience

response, but that process left us with 30% more pages than we could use. From within that larger group, then, I chose those with the broadest coverage of the topic and the strongest scientific evidence in support of the author's statements.

I also insisted that Nancy's republish one of her columns—an essay entitled "Straddling the Stratifications: Confessions of an SES Underdog." I, too, grew up in a working-class family and I found myself

over and over in her engaging piece. One of my graduate students came into my office waving *NCFR Report* the day it arrived and asked if I had read "Straddling the Stratifications." Nancy gave voice to her experience as well. We were not alone—Nancy received more response to this column than any other! She heard several touching stories from NCFR members who shared the pain of their journey to academia. She heard from others whose stories made her laugh. All were kept confidential—she didn't even tell me. As NCFR is committed to nurturing diversity within our ranks, people such as Nancy and I have found a home in NCFR, which embraces "underdogs" of all kinds. Nancy always loves to hear from members, so drop her an e-mail with your reactions to our member magazine anytime at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org. In the meantime, savor the opportunity to learn more about families through these informative and thoughtful essays. ■



Alexis Walker

phenomenology involved in upward mobility. Each of these fascinating pieces was vicariously cathartic for me. Through the eyes of these Americans' lived experiences, story after story revealed that cultural interpreters provided the education not available in a classroom. The secret to tapping these mentors, however, is being able to identify who will help you and then finding the courage to ask the questions... even at the risk of looking like a clod. The commodity is a piece of knowledge. The cost for obtaining it is 60 seconds of mortification. With each transaction, I had to be willing to pony-up the full sticker price. Sadly, this is the point at which the next layer of promising people will peel-off. One in six Americans has a clinically-significant social anxiety disorder. Embarrassment for them costs too much. Equally tragic is the loss of these potential resources to our national human capital.

Finally, the ability to laugh at oneself and one's circumstances is crucial. Masten's seminal findings allude to the importance of humor. I accept that there will be destinations I will never reach. I'll probably always have

unrefined tastes. I have a very limited capacity for abstract thought. No matter how hard I try to see his genius, Jackson Pollock's paintings always look like dropcloths to me. When I meet accomplished people, I still seize-up momentarily. I've discovered that humor can bridge class differences like almost nothing else, especially if I own up to my one-down position right away. When I met my new neighbor, an art history professor, I froze as usual. [Quick, Nancy, think! Make a connection between art history and the lower class!] I steeled myself, and with a twinkle in my eye I asked her why Piet Mondrian painted the Partridge Family bus. She howled. And I got my passport stamped again.

If you're a student or new professional SES underdog, take heart; the day may come when you'll find that your dual worldview is an asset. If you do ethnography research on vulnerable populations, *you're* the one who will be able to establish rapport in subject interviews.... and the dynamite qualitative narratives will come pouring out. By the time you're mid-career like me, you will realize that those who would judge you

solely by the color of your culture—and not by the content of your character—have less “class” than you do.

Later still, you can embrace your shame and put it to work mentoring younger colleagues. Our Conference Consultant Cindy Winter has given me permission to add her most embarrassing moment here. Cindy hails from a small-town in rural Wisconsin. When I told her sheepishly that I didn't know what “turn-down” service was, she said “I can top that!” On her first trip to New York City, Cindy was awestruck. She stayed in her first luxury hotel. As she was leaving, she tried to hail a cab without success. Then the Bellman asked Cindy if he could get her one. Gratefully she said yes. The taxi arrived, and Cindy thanked him profusely. Then the Bellman extended his hand... *and Cindy shook it!* He helped her into the cab and extended his hand once more; and she shook it again! She didn't realize what had happened until much later.

We're fluent in English—but it takes a while to speak the “language.” It's pervasive. Hailing a cab is an example. It requires a certain urban body language that I still haven't mastered. Last time I was in Chicago, I stood on a corner doing one-armed jumping jacks for 20 minutes until a driver pulled over. Cindy was lucky. In her day, only the Bellman witnessed her pratfall. Nowadays, with video cell phones everywhere, a curbside spectacle like mine could end up on YouTube in a clip entitled “Idiot on Halstad Street.”

At each NCFR conference, I get to test my comfort-zone; it's hard to imagine where I could find a more erudite community. But anxiety subsides quickly because everyone is so kind. I take a deep breath, square my shoulders and hope that my intimate understanding of poverty, ignorance, and marginalization can serve NCFR in other ways. As a student of family sciences, I know who Arnold Gesell is. Flag me down at the next conference, and I'll tell you who Arnold Ziffel is.

To access some fascinating research on Social Class, be sure to read an excellent series of papers at www.futureofchildren.org. For entertaining stories about individual journeys, read the New York Times series at www.nytimes.com/class. Accessing the Times' articles requires on-line registration, but it's free. And by the way, if you knew who Arnold Ziffel was without looking him up on Wikipedia, you're my kinda people! ■

a way to get involved

continued from page 2

where they will meet others with similar interests, and have opportunities that will promote their professional development, including reviewing proposals and moderating sessions.” *David Schramm, SNP representative, Education and Enrichment Section*

“Find something that matches your personality! If you are highly social and love meeting new people – become a conference volunteer, get involved with the program committee and newcomers' reception, moderate workshops and presentation sessions. If you prefer more focused work with a smaller group of people, get involved with a section and any special projects they have going (e.g. writing articles for the *NCFR Report!*)” *Amanda Williams, SNP representative, Affiliate Councils Board*

“Don't be afraid to start conversations with established scholars in your field of study. In my experience, they will be happy to discuss their life's work with someone who is genuinely interested in learning.” *Russell Toomey, SNP representative, Feminism and Family Studies Section*

“Submit a proposal to the SNP section because you will meet other SNP panelists and audience members that way. Take advantage of the roommate system to meet other SNPs. Talk to people you don't know if they have the SNP ribbon because chances are, they are friendly and open to networking (you can ask something as simple as ‘Is it your first time at an NCFR conference?’ or ‘I see you are an SNP, are you presenting at this year's conference?’).” *Kelly Campbell, SNP Representative, Ethnic Minorities Section*

What are some of the perks of getting involved in the SNP Leadership Council?

“I discovered that our section helps pay for part of my expenses for the trip to NCFR. What a perk!” *David Schramm, SNP representative, Education and Enrichment Section*

“I have enjoyed learning the ‘ins and outs’ of what makes an organization like NCFR operate, from budgets to use of technology and voting on by-laws, and so forth.” *Kelly Davis, SNP Representative, Family Policy*

If you would like more information regarding the SNP Leadership Council, please contact Andrew Behnke at andrew_behnke@ncsu.edu, SNP Board Representative for 2010-2012. ■

Affiliates matter

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

The Affiliate Councils Board has had a busy year continuing to implement strategic plans and new ideas for the Regional, State, and Student affiliates. Some of the activities that the Affiliate Councils Board and Affiliate Council have been involved with are highlighted here.

The Affiliate Councils Board (ACB) met once a month via conference call. Quarterly conference calls were held with a regional, state and student presidents and advisors (February, May, August) to help meet the needs of the various affiliate councils and to get a better idea of what the affiliate needs are so that NCFR can address them as best they can.

On January 9-10, 2010, the ACB met in Minneapolis for the second strategic planning meeting. At this meeting the board, along with NCFR staff members, mapped out plans for the Affiliate Councils and the Affiliate Councils Board. The ACB also met several times at the NCFR Annual Conference in November 2010.

At the NCFR Annual Conference the ACB sponsored its annual workshop entitled "Affiliates Matter." The workshop focused on learning what was happening at the regional, state, local and student level, how one could be a part of their affiliate's activities, and the options that exist for professional and career development. The annual business meeting was held during this time as well.

The ACB also sponsored a breakfast meeting for presidents and representative of Student Affiliate Councils at the NCFR Annual Conference. It was entitled "Student Affiliates: Bring Students In, Get The Word Out, Put It Together!!"

The Affiliate Councils Board was pleased to announce two winners of the 2010 ACB Outstanding Student Paper competition. Each NCFR Affiliate Council is encouraged to submit one graduate and one undergraduate student paper to the review committee for award consideration.

This year's graduate student winner is Sara K. Johnson of the University of Connecticut Council on Family Relations with her paper titled, *Emerging Adults' Identity Exploration: Illustrations from inside the "Camp Bubble."*

Sara received \$500, an award plaque and a poster presentation slot.

Laura Chrisfield of the Messiah College Council on Family Relations was the undergraduate student winner with her paper titled, *Perspectives of Siblings of Adolescents with Eating Disorders: Parental Communication, Parenting Style, and Perceived Family Satisfaction*. Laura received \$100, a certificate and was invited to present an overview of her paper at the student affiliate breakfast meeting.

This year the ACB sponsored the first President-For-A-Day Award, won by Megan Haselschwerdt. This award recognizes a student or new professional's commitment, energy, innovation in their service to NCFR

and empowers them to continue evolving their leadership role. The recipient of this award must have supported and furthered the organization's mission during his or her membership. This was accomplished through previous conference volunteering, year-round service opportunities and overall efforts to foster community among S/NPs.

The ACB gave four Affiliate Council Awards for Meritorious Service. This award recognizes the service of affiliate members within their local, state and regional council. This past year the recipients were: Joyce Buck, Weber State University Student Affiliate and Utah Affiliate; Judith Myers-Walls, Purdue

affiliates matter continued on page 12

Affiliate Councils Awards 2010

Affiliate Councils Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper

Sara Johnson, University of Connecticut on Family Relations. *Emerging Adults' Identity Exploration: Illustrations from inside the "Camp Bubble."*

Affiliate Councils Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research Paper

Laura E. Chrisfield, Messiah College Council on Family Relations. *Perspectives of Siblings of Adolescents with Eating Disorders: Parental Communication, Parenting Style, and Perceived Family Satisfaction*.

Affiliate Councils President-for-a-Day Award

The first President-for-a-Day Award was awarded to Megan Haselschwerdt, doctoral student at the University of Illinois. A member since 2007, Megan has served in NCFR in a variety of ways, has been active in her university student affiliate, and is the S/NP representative in the Feminism and Family Studies Section. Her research interests are in intimate partner violence, divorce, custody, and co-parenting. She also received a Jesse Bernard Award for her research paper.

Affiliate Councils Award for Meritorious Service

This award is given to NCFR members who have been active in affiliate councils and provided a significant leadership role in community service or public policy on behalf an affiliate.

Joyce M. Buck, Weber State University. Joyce is past president of the Utah Council on Family Relations and has taught in a variety of areas.

Judith Myers-Walls. Judith is an NCFR Fellow, a CFLE, and a long-time faculty member, now retired, at Purdue University.

Stephen D. Brown. Stephen served many years as secretary to the Affiliate Councils' Board and past president of his state affiliate. He is an associate professor at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania.

Sterling K. Wall. An assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Sterling is advisor to the student affiliate.

Start now for 2011. Deadlines are in the winter and spring. For details about the Affiliate Council award criteria and eligibility, visit <http://www.ncfr.org/member/awards.asp>. ■

Beta test the website of our dreams

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

Two years ago, our staff committed to improving two major technology pillars of member service – the NCFR database and website. We needed a functional database that met the needs of the association, including a front facing portal for members to renew, register and manage their information. And we needed a website with flexibility and interactive features for NCFR members.

We had spent much of 2008 shopping for the database but delayed that purchase with the onset of the recession. During the delay, I turned my attention to a website platform called Drupal, checked out *MySQL and PHP for Dummies* and *Beginning Ubuntu Linux* from the library, dug an old computer out of my basement to use as a test server, and went through the lessons in *Using Drupal* to see what it could do.

Drupal is a powerful and flexible platform that powers a wide variety of websites. The FCC, Whitehouse.gov, the government of New Zealand, city governments of London and Athens, South Africa's FIFA World Cup 2010 website, the Grammy Awards, Ashley Tisdale, Monty Python Online, The Onion, Human Rights Watch, Symantec Connect, and Mensa all use Drupal. *Builtwith.com* estimates that Drupal powers at least 1% of the top million sites on the internet. One of the reasons the software is so popular is that it's open source. Meaning it's free! Like kittens!

The truth is that building any great website takes talent and effort and a lot of time. In early 2009 we put that on our wish list and focused on the new database, which we launched in August 2009 along with my.ncfr.org. An RFP to redesign the NCFR website was issued last December. We started with Drupal's capabilities as the baseline, and considered proposals for other content management systems, but in the end both finalists were Drupal developers. A key advantage to open source is that the entire project budget goes toward actual web development, and there are no long term software licensing costs.

The developer we chose to build the new ncfr.org is a small Twin Cities firm with an impressive portfolio. Gorton Studios has built award winning websites for Wellstone Action! and the Buffalo (Minn.) School

District. Their other clients include the University of Northern Iowa College of Education, Southern Poverty Law Center, Guthrie Theater, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Twin Cities Public Television. The staff at Gorton Studios are smart, world class professionals who build "websites that work," and NCFR is about to be added to that list.

NCFR staff and Gorton Studios have worked together since April 2010 to design the web-

site of our dreams. As of this writing we are wrapping up the design phase. Gorton will build the site during October and November as NCFR staff focuses on the annual conference. As this column is published in December the alpha site should be up, our staff will begin entering content, and then we'll begin opening the site to members for beta testing. If you're interested in our progress and how you can be involved, shoot me an email at jasonsamuels@ncfr.org. We are planning to launch the new ncfr.org on February 2, 2011. ■

affiliates matter *continued from page 11*

University Affiliate; Stephen Brown, Mid-Atlantic Affiliate; and Sterling Wall, University Council on Family Relations, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

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

The Affiliate Council Board for 2011 will include:

Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D., CPC, CFCS,
CFLE – President

Minnell Tralle – President-elect and
ACB Representative to the NCFR Board
Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE – Program
Chair

Lloyd E. Pickering, Ph.D. – Secretary
Danielle (Dani) Taylor - Student/New
Professional Representative

Angela Rushton - Student Affiliate
Representative

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

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

Research and Theory Section News

by Shelley M. MacDermid Wadsworth, shelley@purdue.edu

Greetings from the Research and Theory section! Although I am writing this prior to our annual conference, I am confident that I can include congratulations in this article for a very successful effort by all the presenters, presiders, discussants, and attendees! Already we are looking ahead to next year, and your executive committee is discussing goals for our section. Although we will certainly refine our thoughts through discussions with members, suggestions that have been made include working to increase the number of students and new professionals in our section and continuing efforts to enhance the quality of our annual conference, includ-

ing increasing the number of submissions. I hope you will feel free to email me with your suggestions for our priorities for the coming year.

Joan Jurich has agreed to become the next chair of the Reuben Hill Award committee, and in that capacity will be looking for committee members. Please contact her if you are interested in serving. This committee offers the opportunity to read and discuss outstanding research about families!

I wish everyone the best for a successful end of their academic semester (if applicable!) and a wonderful holiday season. ■

Current job market got you down? Try giganomics!

by Michael R. Sturm, Jr., M.F.T., master's candidate, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Delaware, msturm@udel.edu

Ask anyone looking for work and they will concur, the current job market is tough! Few positions coupled with an abundance of job seekers inevitably means that some may find themselves unemployed or underemployed. Are you a recent graduate or soon to be graduate on the job hunt? Does the current job market have you dismayed about finding employment that will match your education and experience? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, you might want to consider “giganomics” as a way to ride out the present conditions.

“Giganomics” is a concept that was birthed in response to a tight economy and labor market. Derived from the term “gig,” giganomics speaks to the creation of employment through the piecing together of several “gigs.” In less favorable economic climates job seekers will often encounter fewer full time job opportunities and more requests for part-time or contractual employees. Educational institutions have been known for stretching their staffing dollars in the past by hiring adjunct faculty and contractual limited-term researchers. Although it takes creativity, social science professionals may find a number of gigs that when woven together can provide new professionals a variety of experiences. Additionally, giganomics can facilitate the marketing of oneself for future employment.

Possible Gigs

Training and experience in the family and social sciences is often interdisciplinary which can be beneficial when seeking out available gigs. Gigs can be found both within and outside academia and can include research, teaching, as well as clinical and applied opportunities depending upon your own training and expertise. Here are a

few places that social science professionals may find gigs:

- Adjunct or part-time faculty teaching opportunities are available at most colleges and universities (be sure to look into departments to which you could contribute such as anthropology, human development, human services, sociology, social work, women's and gender studies, psychology, and education).
- With the growth of online degree programs, online instructors are often needed. These positions typically allow you to work remotely with minimal travel.
- Research institutions look for part-time or limited-term researchers to manage or assist grant projects and research activity sponsored by the university.
- University-sponsored academic/career/counseling centers such as centers for career development, global education, service learning, teaching excellence, and counseling may seek individuals to run programming and provide supportive services to students.
- University-sponsored centers that conduct research or provide services to the community, such as a center for families, employ a wide range of staff depending upon their focus.
- Cooperative Extension offers a broad array of applied programming and services that puts research in the areas of human development, nutrition, family life, and education into practice. Cooperative Extension offices often seek agents and community personnel to develop and deliver such programming.
- Social/community service agencies seek professionals with the skills to effectively

work with individuals and families in a number of clinical and applied capacities in settings including schools, homes, and community clinics.



Michael Sturm

- Local and state governments typically have children, youth, and family offices as well as intervention services where a social science professional may lend their expertise in human development in such capacities as evaluators, grant writers, and directors.
- Local public school systems serve a wide range of children and thus are in need of professionals who can facilitate and execute these activities. These systems often seek professionals in the areas of family/student support, curriculum, and disabilities. Substitute teaching is another gig here that may provide flexibility when creating a multidimensional career.
- Private and nonprofit organizations, which conduct research that informs education and services, can benefit from the research experience and interests of many social science professionals.

Benefits to Giganomics

Currently, it may be difficult to see a silver lining among the gray clouds surrounding today's job climate; however there are several benefits to using giganomics to meet your employment needs. Assembling several gigs together to complete your work picture will undoubtedly provide you with a variety of experiences. Since many of these positions are time limited they give you the opportunity to “try out” career possibilities and further identify what type of work best suits you. Additionally, employment in multiple gigs can potentially expose you to individuals who may seek employees in the future. In otherwise, giganomics can also serve as a means for marketing oneself and networking.

Although the current job market is not ideal, many students and new professionals have received broad training and education in the social sciences which can be transferrable to a number of employment sectors. Thinking “out of the box” and being creative can help you weather the storm. ■

section awards *continued from page 7*

Religion & Family Life Section

Student/New Professional Outstanding Paper Award

Bryce Jorgensen, Jay Mancini, Randal Day, and Jeremy Yorgason. *The Influence of Religious Contexts and Family Commitment and Time Together*

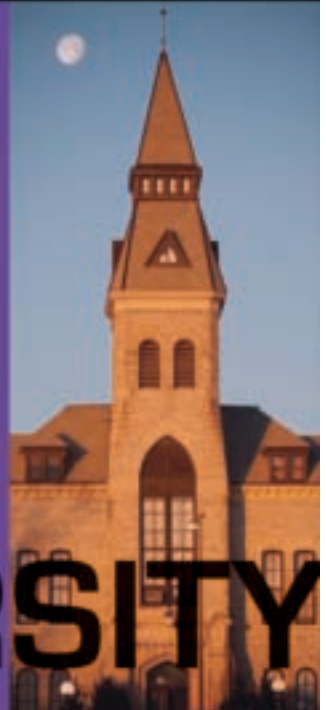
Outstanding Paper Award

Kathleen Walker, Maureen Blankemeyer, Dana Young, and Mary Dellman-Jenkins. *Is Peace a Family Value? Asking Unitarian Universalists About the Iraq War*

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Kansas State University was one of the very first approved academic programs for family life educators. Today, it is one of the few colleges to offer a doctorate with an emphasis in family life education.



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Awards to members and other scholars and practitioners in family-related areas are an important part of the work of NCFR. As an organization, we congratulate these deserving recipients for awards presented in 2010.

You are encouraged to nominate and to apply for NCFR awards. Most awards involve recognition at the annual conference, a cash award or travel stipend, and a plaque. Included in this issue of NCFR Report is the awards brochure and nomination/application form. Note the May 1 deadline for awards to be presented in 2011 (some awards are biannual).

Reuben Hill Award

Christina M. Gibson-Davis

Christina M. Gibson-Davis (Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University) is the winner of the 2010 Reuben Hill Award.

Her article, "Money, marriage, and children: Testing the financial expectations and family formation theory," was published in *Journal of Marriage and Family* (Volume 71, 146-160).



Christina M. Gibson-Davis

Gibson-Davis used longitudinal data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study to examine how changes in earnings and income are related to marriage and childbearing among low-income couples. She found that an increase in earnings was associated with an increase in the odds of marriage but not with additional fertility. Her results supported a conceptual perspective based on financial expectations and family formation.

The Reuben Hill Award is sponsored by the Research and Theory Section. It is given annually in recognition of an outstanding article that combines theory and research methodology in the analysis and interpretation of a significant family issue.

Members of the 2010 Reuben Hill Committee include Paul Amato (chair), Mayra Bamaca-Colbert, Claire Kamp Dush, Jennifer Hardesty, Dan Hawkins, Ben Karney, Sarah Meadows, Amy Rauer, Kathleen Roche, Leslie Gordon Simons, Katherine Stamps, Scott Stanley, and Jay Teachman. ■

Awards 2010

NCFR Student Award

Erika L. Gafsky

The 2010 NCFR Student Award is given to Erika L. Gafsky, who is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Human Development and Family Science, specializing in Couple and Family Therapy at The Ohio State University.

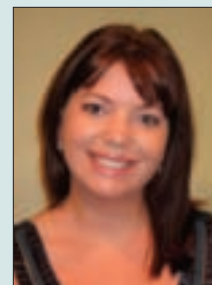
Each year, this award is given to a NCFR graduate student member who has demonstrated excellence as a student with high potential for contribution to the field of family studies. Ms. Gafsky's experiences in research and practices promise great contributions in the field of family studies as a young family scholar. For example, Ms. Gafsky is passionate about qualitative research and the needs of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents, young adults, and families. Her dissertation project involves formative research on the process of disclosure of gay and lesbian youth's sexual orientation to their family and the possible intersection of substance use with this process.

Erika was awarded an R36 National Institutes of Health (NIH) dissertation

grant through the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) to support the project.

Erika is also currently working with her advisor and mentors, Dr. Julianne Serovich and Dr. Natasha Slesnick, to develop and pilot test and intervention for LGB youth aimed at helping them to make safe and successful sexual orientation disclosure decisions to family.

Ms. Gafsky holds a B.S. in Human Development and Family Science from The Ohio State University and a Master of Science in Family Studies specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Kentucky. She has finished her coursework, internship, and clinical training and has recently received her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of Ohio. Upon the completion of her dissertation, her primary career objective is to obtain a tenure-track faculty position at a research-focused university. ■



Erika Gafsky

Ruth Jewson Award

Kristy Y. Shih

The Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award was established to honor NCFR's second Executive Director. It is awarded in even years to recognize the outstanding Family Studies dissertation proposal submitted by a doctoral candidate.

The 2010 recipient of the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award is Kristy Y. Shih, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Riverside. Her research interests focus on immigrant, transnational, and racial/ethnic families, gender and power dynamics, inter-generational relations, and acculturation.

Her Dissertation is titled *Challenging Cultural Essentialism: Gender, Power and Family Politics among Mothers, Sons and Daughters-in-law in Chinese-American and Mexican American Families*. Shih's dis-

sertation proposal indicates that she will reveal complexities that exist among Chinese-American and Mexican American families by moving beyond cultural essentialist assumptions.

Kristy's dissertation proposal was selected because of her strong research plan and strong application. Her research is ambitious, as she will engage in qualitative research using feminist analysis and interviewing 40 mother/son/daughter-in-law triads. Her research will expand knowledge of the complexities among triadic family relationships and challenge notions of "monolithic family" patterns that are often assumed among groups with similar ethnic family identities. ■



Kristy Y. Shih

Felix Berardo Award

Rodney Cate

Rodney Cate, Professor Emeritus at the University of Arizona, has been awarded the first-ever Felix Berardo Award for excellence in mentoring. The endowed award was established by the family of the late Felix Berardo to recognize NCFR members who nurture junior colleagues.

Dr. Cate's nomination dossier reflects the care with which he fostered the development of family scholars who are now active in faculty and other positions. Although Dr. Cate's vita is remarkable in itself, the best way to convey Dr. Cate's qualifications is written in the hearts of those mentees whose letters of support say it all, noted below with their comments in italics.

Brian Ogolsky's article on Dr. Cate appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of the *NCFR Report* on the theme of mentoring. *"He became one of the most influential people in my life—one that would shape my career forever."* Ogolsky said that Cate's example has been crucial for him in developing a mentoring role with his students—and that at a research-intensive university it's easy to view mentoring as a hindrance to reaching one's other goals. *"At times it even requires that you simply 'put yourself aside and listen.' Without those few wise words, I would not be the same academic I am today."*

F. Scott Christopher reminisced; *"My research experience with him taught me the value of being disciplined and careful in one's approach, that rewards can be gained by working closely with colleagues, and that good science includes a sense of joy that comes with the discovery."* Another mentee Amy Reesing added, *"Rod is the most generous academic that I know. He always enabled his whole research team to feel*

like equals. Everyone's opinions were equally valued and listened to."

James Ponzetti noted the unique sense of humor. *"Rod would infuse large lecture classes with his surprisingly colloquial humor as well as instruct small graduate seminars with insight and humor."* Casey Totenhagen said that Cate's *"hilarious one-liners were called 'Rod-isms'"* by all.

Humor aside, his nominators offered page after page of solemn evidence of his skills. Sally Lloyd said, *"I have known Rod for over 30 years, and have been privileged with his mentorship and support over these three decades. Indeed, I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today if it weren't for Rod Cate."*

James Koval says, *"Rod is my Clarence [the guardian angel from the movie 'It's a Wonderful Life']. He has been with me in spirit since day one, as I know that the wonderful life I have lived to this day would not have been possible without his presence, his guiding heart and the wisdoms of his mentorship."*

The Berardo Award Committee was chaired by the late Maxine Hammonds-Smith, immediate past president of NCFR and a passionate mentor. She convened the final meeting and the Committee selected Dr. Cate just two weeks before her untimely death. Other Committee members were Howard Barnes, Sothy Eng, Spencer Olmstead and Anisa Zvonkovic. ■



Rodney Cate

Burgess Award

Susan McHale

The purpose of the Burgess Award is to recognize a distinguished career in the field of family research and scholarship. The award is given in memory of Ernest W.

Burgess, University of Chicago, an NCFR co-founder and fourth president. Dr. Burgess was a pioneer in his contributions to marriage and family research in America.



Susan McHale

The Burgess Award this year is awarded to Dr. Susan McHale of Pennsylvania State University. Dr. McHale has dedicated her career, for the past 30 years, to the study of children's and adolescents' family relationships, roles, and activities. She has an exemplary record of scholarship, mentoring, and service to the field of family studies, including over 100 publications and over 25 years of funded research and mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students. Her work is unique in its attention to the role of siblings in children's and adolescents' lives.

An important and consistent theme in Dr. McHale's work has been the study of multiple family members' perceptions and experiences and understanding similarities and differences within families. Perhaps the most significant contribution Dr. McHale has made to the field of family research is careful attention to the role of gender dynamics in family life. In all of her work over the past 20 years, Dr. McHale has sought to understand how gendered roles, relationships, and activities contribute to parents' marriage relationships, parent-child relationships, larger family systems (e.g., differential treatment of brothers and sisters by mothers and fathers), and sibling relationships and to parents' and children's wellbeing and development.

Following the completion of her Ph.D. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979, Dr. McHale became an assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. Today, she is a full professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and serves as the Director of the Social Science Research Institute and the Children, Youth, and Families Consortium at Penn State. ■

Our NCFR family

Lyndal Khaw Nichols at commencement with her mother, Long She Moy, in spring 2010. Lyndal's parents traveled half way round the world (from Malaysia to the University of Illinois) to celebrate.

(Photo by Carolyn Au)



Margaret E. Arcus Award

H. Wallace Goddard

Sponsored by the Education and Enrichment Section, this award was established to honor the remarkable contribution made to family life education by Margaret Arcus; encourage that tradition of excellence and scholarship in family life education; and to increase the visibility and credibility of family life education scholarship and practice.



H. Wallace Goddard

The 2010 winner is Dr. H. Wallace (Wally) Goddard, a Professor of Family Life with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. His nomination demonstrated his innovative program delivery that has made an enduring difference to the field of family life education.

Goddard's vitae includes print-based and web-based family programs; television, video, and audio programs; professional family books, general audience books, and Christian Family Books; as well as an impressive list of journal publications.

He contributed immensely to the *National Extension Parent Education Model* (NEPEM), has been a contributing member of the teams that created the *National Extension Relationship and Marriage Education Model* and the *National Extension Parenting Educator's Framework*.

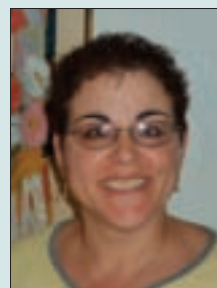
Quoting one award nominator, "Wally's life's work has been to teach. Yes, he understands research and can expound on methodology, but his choice professionally has been educational service and outreach." Describing Wally as a speaker: "When flying solo, Wally will single-handedly hold an audience on the edge of their seats with his illustrative stories and humorous wit." Both of his nominators emphasized the integrity of Dr. Goddard's work in that he "lives what he advocates and he practices what he preaches."

Goddard is a former chair of the Education and Enrichment Section and he chaired the original Arcus Award Development Committee. ■

Jessie Bernard Awards

Kali Van Campen, Megan Haselschwerdt

Kali Van Campen won the Jessie Bernard Outstanding Proposal from a Feminist Perspective, which recognizes a graduate/new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to feminist scholarship. She is a graduate research and teaching associate at the University of Arizona. Her proposal is entitled *Family and Cultural Influences on Latina Adolescents' Sexual Agency*.



Kali Van Campen



Megan Haselschwerdt

Megan Haselschwerdt was named recipient of the Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award. Her paper was entitled *Custody Evaluators' Beliefs about Domestic Violence Allegations During Divorce: Feminist and Family Violence Perspectives*. Reviewers said the paper was strongly situated within the feminist network and the ideas developed were both compelling and timely. The work reflects NCFR's commitment to supporting high-quality research and using it to inform policy and improve the quality of family life. She is a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois. ■

John and Harriette McAdoo Award

Kristy Y. Shih

Kristy Y. Shih is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Riverside.

Kristy's dissertation, entitled *Challenging Cultural Essentialism: Gender, Power, and Family Politics among Mothers, Sons, and Daughters-in-law in Chinese-American and Mexican-American Families*, represents and moves forward Drs. John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo lifelong work and goals. The awardee's work uses the family or familial relationship as its primary focus, highlights the central role ethnicity and culture play in family process, and extends the scholarship work of the McAdoos.

Kristy's study uses a qualitative in-depth interview methodology, engages a feminist analysis of power dynamics in Chinese-Americans and Mexican-Americans mother/son/daughter-in-law triads with special attention to gender and generational tensions and solidarity. A primary theoretical objective is to "research against cultural essentialism"

as reflected in a tendency to view racial/ethnic families as homogenous and without internal variation, thus reducing racial/ethnic family dynamics to ethnic values and ideals.



Kristy Y. Shih

"This is a particularly hard year for all of us at NCFR and especially for the Ethnic Minority Section," says the award committee chair, Dr. Katia Paz Goldfarb. "However, what better way to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Harriette McAdoo than by giving this award to Kristy. I have learned from John and Harriette McAdoo that although we have come a long way, there is still work to be done. Kristy's study is exemplary of our future research with ethnic minority families."

Other committee members are Dr. Le Ann Silvey and Dr. Meeshay Williams-Wheeler. ■

Write for NCFR Report!

NCFR Report is member-written. All are encouraged to submit articles for publication. The upcoming themes for the 2011 issues of NCFR Report are:

- Spring 2011: Couples—deadline 12-21-2010
- Summer 2011: The Transition to Parenthood—deadline 3-21-2011
- Fall 2011: Intergenerational Relationships—deadline 6-21-2011
- Winter 2011: GLBT Families—9-21-2011

Interested in writing on one of the themes? Write to Editor Nancy Gonzalez to request the submission guidelines: nancygonzalez@ncfr.org

The Ethnic Minorities Section: The Energy Station

by Curtis A. Fox, Ph.D., LMFT, CFLE; Chair, Ethnic Minorities Section

It is an awesome experience to belong to the Ethnic Minorities (EM) Section of NCFR. The energy in the section comes alive whenever we have the opportunity to meet as members, to participate in our annual business session, and in the oral history session. Many of our members share these sentiments and continue to support these activities in a very real way. If any were to ask me why I strongly identify with the EM Section, I would be glad to share my thoughts with them. Let me share them with you in case you ever do ask me.

I value community. Any group that shares some commonality has the ability to provide a place where being there is easier than being elsewhere. In my conversation with many of the members of the EM Section, I sense that they grapple often with issues related to marginalization, deprecation, and discrimination. Well, these experiences are sometimes subtle and are often not so subtle. Sometimes, I sense that they are wearied by the constant challenges to personal and professional growth when that is all they want for themselves and for the institutions for which they work. Also, I have the sense that they wonder if others ever know their experience as they do. They surmise, if their experience is unknown, do others think these experiences to be contrived or exaggerated? If it is known, why do others who can influence some change not do more to make that possible? If those who can influence change do not do more, then, is it possible that they prefer the status quo and work hard to keep that state of being? These shared experiences help to create this community for the members of this section.

I value self-determination. By that, I imply that all people groups can find the innate capacity to manage their lives and surmount the obstacles in their internal and external environments. All efforts to enable self-determination are efforts well given. Often, I think that the mentoring and supporting of each other that happen in and through the EM Section place a high premium on self-determination. I remember my earliest experiences of meeting mentors from the EM Section and how natural the relationships developed into precious, meaningful, and intentional ones. That certainly is one reason for my staying in the section and identifying with it strongly.

I value people. Transcending the rainbow of differences that characterize our membership

in the EM Section, I see people—precious, valuable, and capable. The section draws all, well many, that identify as minority in their larger communities. I sense that all are welcome and that there is a special embrace for those who identify as “people,” but as people who understand life through the prism of marginalization, deprecation, and discrimination. The appreciation seems to be extended especially to those who identify with the section when they do not bear the obvious marks of “minority” in our social context.

I love to celebrate. And yes, there is a whole lot of celebration that happens in the section. There is a clear intention to celebrate milestones, accomplishments, marriages, promotions, publications, and social involvement among the members of the section. Yes, we celebrate births, and we celebrate our departed members. Often, we pause to remember their lives and contributions with respect and reverence. For example, I landed on the scene after Dr. John McAdoo left us, but I feel as if I have encountered him on numerous occasions as the memory of him is kept alive because of the place he occupied in the hearts and experiences of many. During our Annual Conference in 2010, a few more very precious ones who departed this life for the “honor roll” of the EM Section were celebrated. Their lives and contributions will be celebrated over many years to come.

Finally, I value growth. That is a sign of life, as my first lesson in biology went. The EM Section is pulsating with life. I see the growth in numbers, influence, and contribution to the larger organization, as well as to the larger academic community, and on Main Street where real people live. At our 2009 Annual Conference, the EM Section members celebrated 30 years of the existence of the

section. Today, she continues to flower the highest ideals of her progenitors. These blossoms emanate in every hue and profusion. I want to thank all that have helped to give body life to the section. You have done well. Members, you have done well. Administrators and officers of NCFR who have sat around the table to help share or determine its faith, I offer my thanks to you. You have done well. But, we must press on. The journey before us is still long, but the way behind us is twice as long. “Let us march on till victory is won” for all; for except I am victorious, you are not. My hope is that our embrace would be so wide that all would feel included in our larger goals. That is what the EM Section is about and that is why I belong to it.

EM Section Call for Proposals

Please note that the call for proposals has been sounded. We are looking forward to a splendid Annual Conference in Orlando in 2011. All proposals are due on March 1, 2011 and we especially invite submissions that reflect the theme of the Conference, “Families and the Shifting Economy.” Great plans are in store for you. Come and enjoy the sun and the rain in Florida.

Marie Peters Award

Please give attention to the Marie Peters Award that will be given in Orlando. Nominations for the award will be processed as documented. Please consider making a nomination for that award.

Best Submission Award

Student/New Professional Best Submission Award will be given at the 2011 Conference in Orlando. All S/NPs are reminded to look out for this award. Here is a chance to have your work recognized and to receive some cash. ■

Religion and Family Life Section News

by Dr. Joe D. Wilmoth, jwilmoth@humansci.msstate.edu

Papers presented in Religion and Family Life sessions in Minneapolis demonstrated an exceptional level of scholarship. Sessions were interesting, challenging, and provocative. The special session and theory symposium were particularly memorable. Many thanks to all who made this such a significant conference for our section!

We anticipate an even more exciting conference in Orlando. Please consider submitting a paper or poster proposal on any topic that looks at the relationship between families and religion. Specific guidelines for proposals can be found online at ncfr.org. If you have further questions, please contact me at JWilmoth@humansci.msstate.edu. ■

Family Therapy Section News

by Thomas Blume, blume@oakland.edu

Happy Holidays! This news is brought to you by the outgoing chair of the section, Jeff Larson, along with the incoming chair (as of November, 2010), Tom Blume. I (Jeff) will pass along some news, then Tom will share his news, goals, feelings about being the chair for the next two years, etc.

The fall conference is over, many great presentations were made, awardees selected, and a changing of section officers has occurred. Welcome to our new officers: Tom Blume, Chair for 2011-2012; Christi McGeorge, Chair-Elect; Stephen Fife, our new secretary/treasurer; and Spencer Olmstead, our new Student/NP representative. You will enjoy working with these fine, dedicated professionals who love NCFR and enjoy serving.

I will miss being Chair, as I made many new friends in the FT section and the NCFR leadership and staff. It has been a pleasure to work with Tom, Shayne Anderson, Colleen Petersen, and Tekulve Martial-Vann as section leaders as well as with Cody Holist, our last AAMFT-NCFR liaison officer and Megan Murphy, Adrian Blow, and Brandon Silverthorn from our last nominating committee.

These are “last” because the nominating committee and liaison positions no longer exist. Tom will update you in a message to the listserv concerning the 2010 business meeting that occurred in November in Minneapolis. We appreciate all who attended that meeting.

Let me assure you that over the last few years the NCFR leaders and staff have improved the operations of the organization. I appreciate the always fast, efficient service I have received from them all when I have had questions (some dumb), and needed information, reminders, or guidance. They are first-class! Tom, you will enjoy your work with them and all the section chairs. Having 10 section chairs is unique in an organization so small but so diverse. It has always been enlightening to me to learn what other sections are doing/planning and to join forces with many of them to present the best research and practice at the annual meetings.

Thanks very much to our 2010 conference proposal reviewers: Kay Higgs-Adams, Richard Wampler, Isa Ribadu, Volker Thomas, Deborah Bailey, Colleen Peterson, Kay Bradford, Raquel Delevi, Jared Anderson,

Tekulve Martial-Vann, Tony Faber, Matt Mutchler, Kevin Green, Tom Carlson, Tatiana Glebova, Barry Ginsberg, Hye-Sun Ro, Kevin Allemagne, Shayne Anderson, Rahna Cutting, Mary Sue Green, Candyce Russell, John Foley, Cody Hollist, Carmen Knudsen-Martin, Eric Hansen, Iva Koustic, Angela Bradford, Erika Grafsky, Yvonne Makidon, Lindsay Edwards, Lauren Fortner, Mary Ho Jones, Justin Koon, Blendine Hawkins, and Christi McGeorge. Thanks, too, to those who presided at paper sessions at the conference: Richard Wampler, Kevin Allemagne, Maresa Murray, and Kevin Kohnke and for the others who volunteered.

Feel like going south to Florida? Well, the 2011 conference will be in Orlando at the Rosen Centre Hotel, November 15-18, 2011. Plan on it now. It is a beautiful hotel with lots to do close-by. Tom will address the conference theme and the proposal process below. I look forward to our continuing friendship and mutual interests in helping families change! Jeff Larson, 2009-2010 Chair, FT Section

I (Tom) thank Jeff for handing over the section in such good shape. I look forward to continuing our record of strong sessions at the conference, and the 2011 theme “Families and the Shifting Economy” offers family therapy scholars and practitioners a special opportunity to demonstrate our relevance for all families. We hope to highlight ways that family therapists can make a difference for couples and families who live with constant poverty as well as those reshaping their lives as expectations and resources are changed by a changing economic system and/or and disaster.

The full Call for Proposals is available on the NCFR website. I encourage you and your colleagues to submit paper and poster ideas to the FT Section. We work with other sections, but we would like to have your work on the program under our banner! I also invite you to contact me if you have thoughts about guest speakers and ways of connecting with the Orlando area.

During the coming year I will be pursuing a few long-term goals for the Section, and here too I am inviting contact from anyone who has energy or ideas to share. First, we have a large membership but small numbers at our annual meeting, and I will be working on

Family and Health Section

by Jan McCulloch, Ph.D., Chair, jmccullo@umn.edu

Greetings from the Family and Health (FH) Section! By the time we receive this issue of *Report*, our 2010 annual meeting in Minneapolis will be history. It is my hope that you have enjoyed your time in our area as much as we enjoy living in such vibrant communities.

I want to express my appreciation to our outgoing FH officers: Debbie Coehlo, Chair; Elise Radina, Secretary/Treasurer; Jerica Berge, Student/New Professional Representative; and Sharon Denham, Past Chair. As I begin my term as FH section chair, I am looking forward to working with our new officers: Elise Radina, Chair-Elect; Karina Shreffler, Secretary/Treasurer; Doris Cancel-Tirado, Student/New Professional Representative; and Debbie Coehlo, Past Chair.

Looking to Spring 2011, I hope all of you will want to be involved with our FH submissions process, both as individuals who submit proposals and as individuals who volunteer to serve as reviewers. After the first

of the year, I will solicit reviewers so that we are ready to go when abstracts arrive.

Before we know it, we will be making our plans for the 2011 NCFR meeting in Orlando (November 15-19). The theme for this conference is “Families in a Shifting Economy.” Issues of health remain a focus of concern for families, professionals, and communities. Our section has much to offer with regard to health research, education, and practice in a changing world. Even though it’s early in our 2011 process, I particularly want to encourage all section members, including our student/new professionals, to begin thinking about the two annual awards our section provides: a professional paper award and a student/new professional award. It is such a pleasure for us as a section to recognize the excellent scholarship from our section with these two awards.

If you have suggestions for our section, please e-mail me. Great ideas come from all of us!

My best wishes for a lovely winter! ■

family therapy section continued on page 20

in this issue:

**The Best
of Report**

FF Section News

by Lisa Taylor, Section Chair 2009-2011

Greetings! As I write this, the 2010 NCFR Conference “*Families and Innovation*” has not yet occurred, but I am looking forward to it as it promises to be enlightening and exciting! It is now time to look ahead to next year’s conference in Orlando, Florida. Leonor Boulin Johnson, the Conference Chair, has developed a theme that accurately reflects what is on most families’ and individuals’ minds right now; “*Families and the Shifting Economy*.” I expect that the FF members will submit lots of interesting proposals since the theme lends itself well to feminism and family studies. For example, how do national and international factors interfere with families’ access to affordable healthcare, housing, food security, employment, equality, and long-term care for aging family members? The location of the conference is also consistent with issues surrounding immigration and ethnicity, so members are encouraged to think about proposals that explore these topics. Overall, the 2011 conference theme enables a number of proposal possibilities for the FF section.

Historically, the FF section has maintained a newsletter – and is one of the only sections in NCFR to do so. For the past two years, the FF section executive officers have discussed whether or not to continue the newsletter since technological advances permit other communication options. In 2009, a survey was administered to the FF members and the findings revealed that the majority (67%) of the section would like to see the newsletter

family therapy section continued from page 19

ideas to make the 2011 meeting an event that you won’t want to miss. Our budget is tight, but I hope we will find ways to supplement the “allowance” we get from the NCFR general fund. Furthermore, I will look at technology to see if we can find other ways of connecting with each other during the other 11 months of the year to build and maintain our sense of community. But I also hope to see the Section increasing its visibility and involvement with other groups within and outside NCFR; our strong theorists, researchers, and practitioners don’t always announce their FT Section identity.

Jeff mentioned the new NCFR organizational structure, which has reduced the number of elected positions in our section. That does not have to mean that we have fewer members who are actively engaged in section leadership. The opportunities for volunteers are almost endless! If you can imagine yourself as a contributor to the section website or newsletter, or you’d like to help with fundraising, annual meeting activities, or outreach to other organizations, I hope to hear from you. Please send your ideas to blume@oakland.edu ■

continue and that the most preferred method for communication was the section listserv. However, the listserv gets inundated with emails, and the streamlining of section executive officers in all of the sections does not allow for a newsletter editor position. As a result, a subcommittee was formed to explore communication ideas for the section. According to the open-ended questions in the survey, the most important aspect of section communication is to feel connected to the section. The executive committee is hopeful that the communication subcommittee can help the section members to continue to feel connected by identifying communication options that meet all of the members’ needs.

The FF section has traditionally been generous in its support for the Jessie Bernard Award fund. This support is expected to continue with a live auction at the 2011 section business meeting, similar to the one held in 2009. The 2009 auction raised a lot of money and

was a lot of fun, so let’s do it again! The executive officers are soliciting donations for the auction at this time. Donations can be services (editing, belly dancing lessons, etc.) or small items that travel well. In addition to the auction, the section will be creating and selling cookbooks with recipes from the section members. How fun would it be to make Mike Johnson’s homemade lasagna, Sally Lloyd’s Caesar salad, or Katherine Allen’s chocolate chip cookies? (By the way, don’t look for these particular recipes in the cookbook as I just used these members and recipes as an example!) Cooking brings families of all kinds together and is a way to show love to family members – show love for the section by donating a recipe!

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the FF section for their continued support and enthusiasm. Thank you for making the FF section so much fun! See you in Orlando in 2011! ■