

In this issue:

Intergenerational Relationships

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In this issue of NCFR Report, your colleagues examine the many facets of intergenerational relationships—the joys and the ambivalence.

Next issue: LGBT families.



The 73rd Annual Conference

Families and the Shifting Economy

November 16-19, 2011

Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida

Families and the Shifting Economy

by Leonor Boulín Johnson, Ph.D., 2011 Conference Program Chair

The 2011 NCFR Annual Conference provides an interdisciplinary forum for sharing ideas and skills useful in addressing the consequences of economic stress on both families and the field of family studies . . .

- Educators and administrators will find relevant workshops for enhancing classroom learning and marketing family science programs in a tight economy.
- Educators seeking further credentials can learn about the benefits and process of becoming a Certified Family Life Educator.
- Students and new professionals can participate in practical sessions designed to prepare them for both entrepreneur and academic careers.
- Practitioners and policy analysts will glean useful ideas from presentations on cutting-edge best practices and evidence-based programs.
- Researchers will have opportunities to participate in a hands-on qualitative research software workshop and engage in critical discussions on original research, theory and methodology.
- The personal and professional ethics sessions will stimulate the moral core of all participants.

With hundreds of concurrent sessions, round tables, and posters, first-rate featured speakers from outstanding institutions, and opportunities to connect with new and old colleagues, there is without a doubt something for everyone.

Our first featured speaker, **Frank Furstenberg**, (Zellerbach Family Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania), draws on his groundbreaking studies on socio-economically disadvantaged urban communities to provide insight on how

American families can promote healthy development in children and adolescents.

Two sessions reflect an environmental theme. From the perspective of environmental and developmental psychology, **Gary Evans** (Cornell University) presents a special session that lays out the process by which family turmoil and violence results in stress-induced physical problems in the young, particularly those most economically vulnerable. Reflecting the numerous recent environmental disasters, expert panelists in a second session discuss the condition of families impacted by storms, spills, and floods in the Gulf states.

At the national level, experts on census information reveal what the most recent data tell us about the recession's impact on family formation, living conditions, survival strategies, mothers' employment and government assistance. Since effective government programs and policies must rest on evidence-based research, the issue of measurement and methodology will receive attention in several formats: TCRM workshops, concurrent sessions, and our featured speaker, **Rebecca Blank**, U.S. Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

Florida, the site of our conference, contains the highest percentage of older adults in the country, and this year the entire nation faces the front end of the U.S. "Baby Boomer" cohort turning 65. Forums for discussing graying population issues range from informal poster sessions and focus groups to the more formal "Family Caregiving of Older Adults" presentation by **William Haley** (University of South Florida and



Leonor Boulín Johnson

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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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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Florida Alzheimer's Disease Research Center) and an **Isabell Sawhill** (Brooking Institution) plenary on "Intergenerational Equity: Balancing the Needs of Young and Old." Florida also remains unique for 33 years of standing alone in its opposition to gay adoption. In a special session, attorney **Shelbi Day** (LGBT Advocacy Project) will highlight the long campaign against sexual orientation discrimination and the eventual overturning of the ban.

If your interest lies in health, dozens of sessions await you. Health topics include mental health and the shifting economy, childhood obesity, health data sets for researchers, technology, autism, mental health related to multiracial youth, rural families, immigrants, adult child caregivers, couple violence, human sexuality and more. To cap off this focus, **David Williams** (Harvard University School of Public Health) will present steps to improve the health of American families. Next to the shifting economy, health care ranks high as a critical contemporary issue, and health will be the theme for the 2012 annual conference in Phoenix.

For those interested in global perspectives on families' internal dynamics, demographic

changes, and government policy issues, attend anyone of the numerous concurrent sessions focused on families within Asia, Africa, India, the Caribbean, Mexico, South America and Europe. Also check out the numerous posters and seminars focusing on immigrants to the United States.

The contemporary story of families would not be complete without a look at how couples maintain intimacy under stressful situations. Thus, we invited **Benjamin Karney** (UCLA), a leading expert on couple relationships, to close the conference by addressing relationship processes and interactions among civilian and military couples. His longitudinal couples research will be presented in both a plenary session on low-income and more affluent marriages and a post-conference workshop on military families. Workshop attendees will also attend breakout sessions and have time for networking.

Four days of intellectual stimulation, skill building, and camaraderie balanced with warm weather and discounts to local attractions—it doesn't get any better. Start packing that business attire and don't forget the shorts. See you in Orlando! ■

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

Pauline Boss (2011). *Loving Someone Who Has Dementia*. Jossey Bass.

Linda Budd (2011). *The Journey of Parenting: Helping Your Child Become a Competent, Caring, Contributing Adult*. See <http://www.drdudd.net>

Arla Caraboolad (2011). *The Worst Evil—Losing Yourself*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse

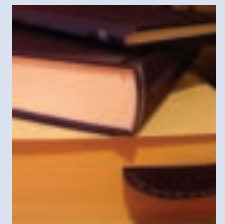
Lee Ann De Reus and Libby Balter Blume, Eds. (2010). *Social, Economic and Environmental Justice for All Families, Vol. 1*. In L. B. Blume (Series Ed.), *Groves Monographs on Marriage & Family*. Ann Arbor, MI: MPublishing.

K.M. Galvin, C.L. Bylund, and B.J. Brommel (2012). *Family Communication: Cohesion and Change*, 8th ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Chris Segrin and Jeanne Flora (2011). *Family Communication*, 2nd ed. Taylor & Francis

S.M. Stith, E.E. McCollum, and K.H. Rosen (2011). *Couples Treatment for Domestic Violence: Finding Safe Solutions*. American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Kieran T. Sullivan and Joanne Davila, Eds. (2010). *Support Processes in Intimate Relationships*. New York: Oxford Press





Increasing international diversity in NCFR's membership

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

I had two recent experiences that further reinforced my respect for the value of diverse voices in discussions about families. Both involved my participation in conferences outside of the United States. In late May, I gave an invited address at an international conference at Seoul National University in South Korea. The theme of the conference was *Families as Social Capital: The Choice for Future Generations*. I was invited to present by NCFR member Dr. Sun Wha Ok, president of the Korean Home Economics Association and Professor, Seoul National University.

Conference participants included Hee Young Paik, Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea; Dr. Michael Bittman, University of New England, Australia; Dr. Kinuyo Kurokawa, Naruto University of Education, Japan; Dr. Grace Chung, Seoul

National University, Republic of Korea; Dr. Christa Wichterick, Women in Development Europe, Germany; and Dr. Soyoung Lee, Montclair State University, USA (former NCFR Board member). Presentations included findings from the Second National Survey of Korean Families and discussions of family and democracy, the current status of family policy in Korea, parent support and child and adolescent development, recent family changes and family problems in Japan, and work-family policy and family-friendly society.

I was most impressed by the diversity of perspectives, as well as by the common family-related issues and challenges voiced by scholars and practitioners from different countries, although at times with an unexpected twist. For example, my presentation

focused on parent involvement and school success of middle school students in the United States—an intervention research perspective. In the U.S., we are mostly concerned about the lack of engagement and involvement of parents in the education of their children. I was told by several Korean participants attending the session that the issue in the Republic of Korea might better be described as over engagement rather than under engagement with Korean parents placing significant pressure on their children to excel academically.

In mid-June, I participated in the 11th Biennial Conference of the European Research Group on Military and Society (ERGOMAS), which was held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Hosted by the Netherlands Defence Academy, the relatively small number of conference attendees (about 150) represented a number of countries, including The Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, France, Germany, Sweden, Finland, United Kingdom, Israel, South Africa, Argentina, Greece, Slovenia, and the United States. Dr. Randall Collins, President, American Sociological Association, delivered the opening plenary. Dr. René Moelker, Netherlands Defence Academy, chaired the working group on military families—one of ten such working groups. I presented a paper with my colleague and NCFR member, Dr. James Martin, Bryn Mawr College, in one of the two working sessions on military families.

Unlike the conference in Korea, the conference in The Netherlands was not focused just on the study of families. However, the learning experience was similar to my experience in Korea—a rekindled appreciation for the value of diverse perspectives from participants from different parts of the world. For example, in the two military family sessions, papers were presented on

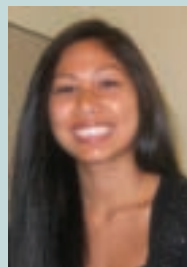
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Meet NCFR Intern, Krystel Calubayan

Hello! My name is Krystel Calubayan and I am currently the database intern at NCFR this summer. I started interning here at the beginning of May 2011, a couple short weeks before I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in Family Social Science.

It's been a great pleasure to work here this summer. I was very excited to find out that NCFR distributes and creates the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Family Theory & Review* and *Family Relations*. I used these very journals during my undergraduate studies at the U to help supplement research papers I had been writing. Additionally, all of the staff here are very warm and welcoming, and it's been an experience learning about the CFLE program, certification, and how to sort and enter many database files!

Once my time at NCFR is complete, I'll be starting my full-time job as an Event Coordinator for a non-profit in St. Paul, Admission Possible. Admission Possible assists low-income high school students apply and attend college through after-school sessions on financial aid, college admissions, ACT prep, and peer counseling. Results have shown that Admission Possible more than doubles the chance that a low-income student will enroll in a four-year institution. NCFR has taught me so many valuable skills and I'm looking forward to use them in my future endeavors in this fulfilling field of work!



Thank you to our conference sponsors

NCFR staff and board extend great appreciation to Jan McCulloch (Minnesota), Jay Mancini (Georgia), and Elaine Anderson (Maryland) for support by their institutions in sponsoring major events at this year's conference. Those sessions are listed below.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available for major presentations and events. Your organization receives special recognition in many ways for participation as a conference event sponsor. Contact Charles Cheesebrough at charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org for details.

"Tough Times: The American Family Under Economic Stress"

Frank Furstenberg, Jr., Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Opening plenary sponsored by the University of Georgia, Department of Child and Family Development

"Intergenerational Equity: Balancing the Needs of Young and Old"

Isabel V. Sawhill, Ph.D., Senior Fellow and Co-director of the Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution.

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

"Beyond Health Care Reform: Key Steps to Improve the Health of All American Families"

David R. Williams, Ph.D., Harvard University School of Public Health
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"Newcomers Reception"

Elaine Anderson, NCFR President-Elect, Presider and Host
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the impact of deployment on the well-being of military children (Dr. Julie Coulthard, Department of National Defence, Canada); post-traumatic stress and family functioning (Dr. Manon Andres, Netherlands Defence Academy, Netherlands); and forgotten military families (Dr. Jelena Juvan, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia). It was exciting to learn of developments in these topic areas from scholars from different countries.

NCFR defines itself as "the premier professional association for the multidisciplinary understanding of families." As an organization, NCFR embraces the importance of membership inclusion and diversity, and the NCFR Board of Directors has charged an Inclusion and Diversity Committee to develop principles and policies to guide organizational efforts in infusing inclusion and diversity into all aspects of NCFR. The participation of family scholars and practitioners from worldwide communities is an important aspect of this inclusion and diversity.

Clearly, NCFR's potential to extend its membership reach beyond U.S. borders is greater than has been realized to date. At the present time, NCFR's membership composition is predominately U.S.-based. As of June 2011, approximately 95% of NCFR members reside in the U.S. Of course, some of our U.S.-based members come here from other countries and/or have research or practice agendas that expand beyond the boundaries of the U.S. Yet, of our members from non-U.S.

countries (N = 176), one in three reside in Canada (34%). Others reside in Japan (16%), Taiwan (9%), South Korea (7%), and Australia (5%). Somewhat surprising is the small number of members from European countries, including the United Kingdom (N=6), Germany (N=5), Sweden (N = 2), Norway (N = 1) and France (N=0)—despite the progressive family support policies in some of these countries. We have only three members from Israel. Overall, I find these demographics surprising—the number of non-U.S. members is much lower than I would have thought.

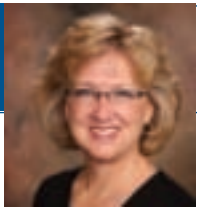
I had a brief phone conversation with Dr. Catherine Solheim, past chair of the International Section, about these membership demographics. She shared with me some of the discussions among members of the section about encouraging greater international participation, including ways to overcome language barriers among those interested in submitting abstracts for conference participation. I plan to seek additional consultation with this section, as well as to initiate dialogue with both the Board of Directors and the Inclusion and Diversity Committee. I would also appreciate your thoughts as members about strategies to increase the international appeal of NCFR as a membership organization—please email me or contact any member of the Board of Directors. Thank you.

May peace be with you and your family. ■

Our NCFR family



NCFR member Joe "Papa Joe" Wilmoth proudly shows off his fictive kin, "grandson" Tyler, whose parents are a neighbor couple. Joe explains, "Steve and Cynthia Brown have been wonderful neighbors. When we learned they were expecting their first child, Zelda and I told them we were going to be 'surrogate grandparents.' We've been 'Papa Joe' and 'Nana Z' since Tyler was born, and he's been like a grandson to us. One of his first words was 'Papa'—which I love to brag about." Thanks to Joe and Zelda for being "grandparents of the heart" to precious Tyler and to Steve and Cynthia Brown for their permission to feature Tyler in this issue of NCFR Report.



NCFR's revised Global Ends

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

Over the past year the NCFR Board of Directors has been examining the Global Ends of NCFR. Global Ends in the Carver Governance model express the mission, vision, and priorities of an organization. We have gone from an old Global End statement that charges NCFR with publicizing the field of family science to a new policy statement that holds us accountable for supporting the well-being of families: ***NCFR exists to develop and disseminate research, theory, and practice to support the well-being of families.*** The sub-policies of the Global End statement follow:

NCFR members will set research and evidence-based practice priorities and create the scientific, multi-disciplinary knowledge base to support the well-being of families.

- NCFR members will engage in scholarly research regarding critical issues for families.
- NCFR members will play a role in determining issues of priority in the study of families.
- NCFR members will be knowledgeable about scientific methods for studying families.
- NCFR members will examine critical issues faced by diverse families, including discrimination, oppression, and social inequalities.
- NCFR members will network in ways that enhance interdisciplinary dialogues, strategic partnerships, and mentoring relationships.
- NCFR members will have knowledge of career options and opportunities.
- NCFR members will create and utilize empirically-based practices, curricula, and pedagogy.
- NCFR members will understand the policy-making process and the impact of major public policies affecting families.

NCFR and its members will disseminate and apply research and evidence-based knowledge and skills to support the well-being of families.

- NCFR and its members will raise the visibility and importance of family research and practice to the mission and work of groups such as funders, university administrators, policy makers and media.
- NCFR and its members will disseminate evidence-based information about families to a wide variety of audiences.
- NCFR members will practice evidence-based prevention and intervention in their work with families.

The first major sub-policy expresses the role of NCFR members in *acquiring* the knowledge necessary to support the well-being of families. The second addresses how this knowledge will be *applied and disseminated* and to whom. These policy statements are succinct, action oriented, and align with NCFR's Institutional Identity (see graphic at right). The NCFR Board under the leadership of President Gary Bowen is to be commended for their work on the Global End policies.

Now the work begins for the staff and members. We move from a period of putting systems in place to an era of leveraging those systems to fulfill the Global Ends of NCFR. Research has shown that typically 10 percent of association members are actively engaged. We are grateful for all the members who have given their time and talents to NCFR and we are committed to increasing that number.

Regarding member engagement, your staff has learned some very important lessons.

- First, you, the members, have all the answers. I am not being facetious. You know this field. You know what you need and want from your professional association. Our job as staff is to listen with an ear for action. For example, at the June board meeting someone mentioned that NCFR didn't have a place on the website

where members of the press could find experts to comment on family issues. Now we do. Check it out here: <http://www.ncfr.org/press-room/contact-expert>.

- Second, since members have the answers, then tap their knowledge—whether it be with a personal phone call or the creation of a task force or committee—and provide administrative support while they do their work.
- Third, the commitment of members is gained through their engagement. So there is a double payback – better programs that meet member needs and member retention.

We are excited about this next era at NCFR. Your leadership and ideas are going to make our work fun and innovative. Your creativity gives us energy and we are thrilled to help you actualize your vision. ■



The 73rd Annual Conference
November 2011 in Orlando



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Do your job better with NCFR's Professional Resource Library (PRL) **cfle**

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

Consider these scenarios: You're a family life educator who has just been charged with developing a workshop for foster parents. Or you're a college professor who has been asked, last minute, to teach a course on family stress and coping. Maybe you are looking for some ice-breaker activities to use in your financial literacy class or for a good book on family caregiving issues. Or are wondering if there are any good mobile applications dealing with relationships.

Where do you go to find this information? NCFR's new Professional Resource Library (PRL)!

The PRL is a feature in NCFR's new website that allows NCFR members and current Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs) to exchange information on resources relevant to family education.

The PRL was originally called the *Practitioners Resource Library* but was changed to *Professional Resource Library* to reflect the fact that the PRL can be a resource for those teaching in academia as well as those working in the field. In the PRL you can search for resources by **Resource Type**. Currently the options include: Article, Book, Curriculum, DVD/Video, Experiential Activity, Mobile Application, Presentation, Research Brief, Textbook, and Website, but more will likely be added. You can filter by **Category** or **Search by Keyword** as well.

Anyone who is a current member of NCFR or a current CFLE can access the PRL (see sidebar). Because the PRL is a member and CFLE benefit, you will need to login to see resources or to contribute. You do not need to be the author or creator of a resource in order to post it. The intent is that you share information on resources that you have found to be helpful in your practice. If you own copyright on the resource and want to make it available to others, you can download a PDF or you can simply provide a URL to a site where the resource, or information about it, can be accessed. If you see a resource posted that you have found to be helpful, there is an option to "recommend" it. We are also working on a more thorough review process which will result in additional recognition. If you want a resource to be noted as meeting NCFR standards (a list of criteria will be posted on the PRL) you would need to complete a more detailed submission form.

The PRL came about in response to the rich and valuable conversations being carried out on many of the NCFR listservs. Listservs have proven to be a great way for colleagues to share information but they are limited in how much information can be shared and how that information can be accessed at a later date. Our intention for the NCFR Professional Resource Library is to provide a tool that allows family professionals to help each other enhance their practice. Why develop a curriculum on teaching money skills to teenagers when there are several excellent programs already out there? And when looking at a list of available programs, wouldn't it be nice to know what your peers thought of it? If you've written a relevant book or developed a program or curricula, the PRL is an opportunity to put it in front of key audiences.

The PRL is a work in progress that we hope will someday include thousands of relevant resources. Please take a few minutes to post a few resources to the site and/or recommend some of those already posted. We're looking for curricula, teaching ideas, syllabi, books, textbooks, research briefs, DVD/videos, website—you name it. The PRL has tremendous potential but we need **you** to make it work. ■

NCFR Professional Resource Library (PRL)

<http://www.ncfr.org>

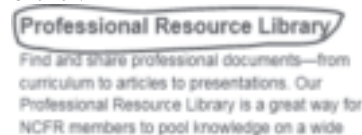
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The Professional Resource Library is located in the Professional Resources section of the NCFR website.



Click on:



Once you are logged into the PRL site, you can watch a short tutorial video on how to search within the PRL or to add resources.

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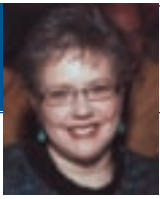
Keywords - commonly used phrases will pop-up as you type

Author(s) – First initial and last name

Short Description

You'll have the option to **Upload a File** or **Enter a URL**

That's all there is to it!



Thanksgiving, the Nancy way!

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

Women in the family always seem to end up with more than our share of the “kin-keeping” duties. There is an impressive body of research in our journals that bears me out. Not only are we major contributors to the economy by serving in roles such as the unpaid primary caregivers, we have other “soft” assignments strongly enforced by social convention. We’re supposed to remember the birthdays, attend the bridal/baby showers, and orchestrate the holidays. This means that for a lot of women, the weeks beginning at Thanksgiving and through New Year’s Day are cram-packed with not just our day-jobs and the “Second Shift,” but a third one too. At NCFR headquarters, our year-end rush begins in September. With the conference in early November, we finish our busiest season and Thanksgiving is upon us. How do women do it? Especially if their busiest time at work falls at the end of the year?

This topic of conversation came up at headquarters just ahead of Thanksgiving 2007. I remember it vividly. Diane Cushman, who was in her first year as Executive Director, experienced the NCFR conference/holiday double whammy for the first time. Diane had agreed weeks before that she would host the family Thanksgiving that year. I warned her. During the conference she was logging 18-20 hour days. I sent her a text message late one night: “Pace yourself. Trust me.” Sixteen-hour days are typical for staff. The conference is exhilarating, and it’s the most fun I have all year. But when we get home, the bill comes due. We collapse for about a week. And that is usually the week before Thanksgiving.

I’ve found that the best way to survive the family Thanksgiving is to make sure the event is hosted by someone else. The problem is, with all of the gender-specific social pressures, how do you foist this duty off on someone and not face resentment? Here’s the secret—it’s by *carefully establishing your incompetence as a hostess*. This is where Diane made her mistake.

It will take a year of effort to implement this plan, but it’s worth it. Shhhh. Don’t tell my family! First, invite the whole extended family for Thanksgiving. Make sure the crowd is large so that you’ll have plenty of witnesses. Your objective is to stage the holiday meal and plan the post-dinner downtime activities so that nobody will ever let you do it again.

Begin with the place settings. Cardboard plates are obvious—if you’re really classy, use the ones with three discrete sections. Your flatware choice will, of course, be the “spork”—the fast-food, plastic spoon/fork hybrid. Now it’s time to cook. Prepare and serve the turkey as usual. This lulls everyone into a false sense of security.

Then, for all of the side dishes, add a pinch of something unusual. Make the mashed potatoes look fluffy and inviting—but lace them subtly with a spice that is incongruous, such as nutmeg. Same with the cranberries—a dash of cumin is perfect. Keep it understated, almost at the “subliminal perception” level. The effect you’re going for is not “yuck,” but seeing quizzical faces that betray their “something isn’t quite right” thoughts.

Making stuffing? This is where you can ratchet up the cognitive dissonance. Since stuffing is an amalgam of unidentifiable ingredients anyway, stir in a few miniature marshmallows just before serving. Gelatin also provides lots of fun options. It’s commonplace here in Minnesota to suspend fruit cocktail in the gelatin. The smart hostess uses a few pearl onions too. If anyone asks about your unusual recipe, you can say you read about it somewhere. (It’s true—you read about it here.)

Now use dinnertime conversation to underscore your strategy. Make cheerful small

talk that gets them thinking. You might, for example, ask your brother-in-law: “Say, Don. You watch Animal Planet. Do you know what works for keeping cats off the kitchen counter?” When everyone gets up from the table, it’s time for entertainment. No football at your house. Tune every TV to C-SPAN and hide the remotes. I guarantee that next year, you’ll be off the hook. When the “what shall we do for Thanksgiving” conversation comes up, there will be plenty of volunteers to take over.

Of course this is all a silly Walter Mitty day-dream. Research about the family dinner is clear—sharing meals is important for building relationships. Someone has to do the emotion work in families as well as preserve meaningful intergenerational ties. But if the holidays are not celebrated, but dreaded, it’s time to make a change. No one would expect a tax accountant to give a dinner party every year in mid-April. Traditions can be modified. New ideas can start new traditions. If the point is getting everyone together, dining via potluck or having a “desserts only” Thanksgiving (with everyone assembling for pie) might work well.

Sometimes establishing a new tradition can make for a year or two of hurt feelings. A former co-worker of mine faced this decision years ago when his children were small. His side of the family lived in one state; his wife’s in another. There was about an eight-hour drive between them. A tradition had evolved that they would spend Christmas Eve with one side and then drive to the other side for Christmas Day. Before they had children, it was doable. But with little kids, it was impossible. They finally worked up the courage to tell both sides that they would visit in alternate years. It wasn’t easy to make the change, but eventually everyone adjusted.

Then there are the families who do not have a Norman Rockwell painting to go home to. This reminds me of something an old friend told me about getting together with her

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Affiliates matter: Planning for Success

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

The Affiliate Councils of the National Council on Family Relations are state, regional, and student groups who work in their immediate areas as well as with the national organization to further the mission of NCFR. Affiliates, at all levels, are an important part of NCFR. This year has been exciting for the Affiliate Councils Board as we have approved four new affiliates and would like to welcome them. NCFR new affiliates are:

Eastern Illinois University (student affiliate); President, Theresa Lindsay

University of Tennessee at Knoxville (student affiliate); President, Karen Bluth

Utah Valley University (student affiliate); President, Jeron Parry

Wisconsin Council on Family Relations (state affiliate); President, Jami Kaiser

Throughout the year we have continued strategic planning and involvement in a variety of activities to help strengthen all affiliates. We have continued to hold conference calls quarterly with all the state, regional, and student affiliates presidents, advisors, or their designee. We have found that this is a good way to interact and be more aware of affiliate needs.

At the NCFR Annual Conference, this year's Affiliate Councils Workshop on Wednesday, November 16, is entitled "Affiliates Matter: Planning for Success." The workshop will be held from 8am to 1pm with a business meeting included. Come hear from Deb Cashen and Susan Marsh and learn from other affiliates in the following roundtable discussions: Planning for Success, Recruitment, Webpage Ideas, Career Paths in Family Science, and

Program and Conference Ideas. Workshop participants will have opportunities to interact with their peers during this time.

At the Affiliate Councils business meeting we will be honoring four NCFR members with the Affiliate Councils Meritorious Service Award. The recipients are Marcie Brooks, Dr. Richard Sales, Dr. Paul Schvaneveldt and Dr. Jennifer Hardesty. We would love to see you there.

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

The Affiliate Councils will also be sponsoring the Affiliate Councils Student Breakfast on Friday, November 18, 7:30-10am, entitled "Bridges to Building a Successful Student/Local

affiliate matters continued on page 10

Minnesota Council on Family Relations

Submitted by Leanne Sponsel, MCFR President

Hello from Minnesota! This year MCFR is all about conferences and trainings. In May, Dr. David Walsh joined us at the Como Zoo and Conservatory Conference Center for a presentation and discussion on brain development as an issue in parent educators' work and possible parenting topic. His new

book, *Smart Parenting, Smarter Kids*, had not even been released, but it will surely be a valuable resource.

Throughout the year we have been able to offer several workshops on *Ethical Thinking and Practice for Family Professionals*. Using the booklet of the same title, we have drawn educators into the examination of ethical principles and resolving ethical dilemmas.

Our fall conference, December 2, 2011, will feature Dr. Wally Goddard. After hearing

him speak at the NCFR conference last fall, there were several board members who were so impressed that we decided to invite Dr. Goddard to present so that we could hear more. His topic at the national conference was "Getting Beyond Skills in Family Life Education" and though our conference title hasn't been decided, we are excited to learn more about this perspective on our field. Yes, it'll be winter in Minnesota, but we have heated skyways and it truly is beautiful. Join us. ■

report from minneapolis

continued from page 8

in-laws. Her husband's family gatherings were always uncomfortable, "pass the salt," stare-at-your-plate ordeals. Then her husband had a brilliant idea. They started bringing a friend every year. They called this friend "the family buffer." When there was an outsider present, everyone acted normal. Problem solved. This simple intervention changed the family dynamics.

Workplaces can help stressed-out families, too, by being flexible on the office parties. At NCFR, we have our holiday party in January. Co-workers can be a source of support as well, and this is where I can do my part. Diane, I've got two months to turn you into a domestic failure. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it. It's been years since I hosted Thanksgiving. It's funny. Someone else always volunteers. ■

NCFR welcomes our newest affiliates

State Affiliates

Wisconsin Council on Family Relations
Jami Kaiser, President;
jami@thinkmarriage.org

Student Affiliates

Utah Valley Council on Family Relations
Jeron Parry, President;
jeronbusiness@gmail.com
Ron Hammond, Advisor

If interested in starting an affiliate please contact Lynda Bessey at lyndabessey@ncfr.org or 763-231-2892.



Eastern Illinois University Council on Family Relations
Theresa Lindsay, President;
tlindsay@eiu.edu
Gary Laumann, Advisor

University of Tennessee Council on Family Relations
Karen Bluth, President; bluth@utk.edu
Spencer Olmstead, Advisor

Affiliate.” This breakfast is a great opportunity for student officers and advisors to meet their counterparts from other areas, network, and learn how to develop a strong student affiliate. A presentation will be given by advisors Glee Bertram, Nate Cottle and Kaye Sears.

Also at this meeting, awards for the Outstanding Graduate and Undergraduate Student Research Papers will be awarded and the Student President-For-A-Day will be recognized. These winners are:

Outstanding Graduate Research Paper: “He Could Scare Me Without Laying A Hand On Me” by Kimberly A. Crossman, M.S.; Jennifer L. Hardesty, Ph.D.; and Marcela Raffaelli, Ph.D. Sponsoring Affiliate Council: Illinois Student Council on Family Relations.

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Paper: “Religiosity Impacting Stepfamily Dynamics” by Michelle Burton, Andrew Chris, and Paul

Schvaneveldt, Ph.D. Sponsoring Affiliate Councils: Utah Affiliate Council on Family Relations; Weber State Student Council on Family Relations.

President-for-a-Day Award: Michelle Burton, senior student at Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.

The Affiliate Councils will also be hosting affiliate displays this year. Each affiliate has the opportunity to set-up a display within the exhibit hall Thursday through Friday. Affiliates need to contact Lynda Bessey at NCFR headquarters by September 15 if they are interested in showing off their affiliate and setting up a display.

More information and flyers will be forthcoming concerning all of these activities.

Please let us know how we can continue to serve you and your affiliate and help you meet your goals. ■

Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between April 1 and June 30, 2011. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alabama

Celeste Hill FULL
Mallory Lucier-Greer FULL
Michele Rice

California

Heather Johnson FULL
Hannah Schoenhardt
Blanca Muñoz
Nishana Clark
Tina Miller

Florida

Katharine Hartsfield

Idaho

Mary Hemmert

Iowa

Kevin Zimmerman

Kentucky

Claire Kimberly

Louisiana

Patricia Aguillard

Maryland

Andrea Downing

Michigan

Maria Markos FULL
John McElroy FULL
Ja'Von Jones
Eric Moor
Anne Dunham
Jennifer Raymaker

Kevin Fitzgerald

Renee' Nelson

Joel Maier

Sherry Young

Stefanie Mineff

Nicole Hamlin

Kimberly Zieger

Mississippi

Amy Patterson

Missouri

Rebecca Dockuum

Montana

Mindy Diehl

Rachel Grieco

Nebraska

Rebekah Gerrard

New Jersey

Jennifer Tanner FULL

New York

Mehwish Kapadia

Katherine Miltakis

North Carolina

Kimberly Little

North Dakota

Ann Werlinger FULL

Ohio

Patrice Powers-Barker FULL

Sierra Baker

Amanda Fike

Kristen Farrell

Diane Parsons

Oklahoma

Monica Hinkley

Pennsylvania

Rebekah Conrad

South Dakota

Molly Norling FULL

Tennessee

Danielle Jackson

Texas

Deborah Cregger FULL

Peggy Telg

Rebecca Stroman

Utah

Auburn Guevera FULL

Nancy Madsen

Shalan Hunt

Levi Lewis

Elizabeth Shirts

Washington

Cory Kildare

Felicia Light

Rachel Southwell

Canada

Prince Edward Island

Brittany Waite

Family Therapy Section News

by Thomas Blume, blume@oakland.edu

This has been a landmark year for the FT section. After two years of preparation, we solicited nominations for the Kathleen Briggs Mentoring Award. We received a heart-warming and inspiring collection of letters nominating eight of our section members, which were reviewed by an honorary selection committee led by Volker Thomas and Colleen Peterson, and the first award will be presented in Orlando.

For Orlando, we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring an exciting array of workshops, round tables, symposia, paper sessions, posters, and pecha kucha. Thanks to the hard-working and responsive reviewers who contributed to the selection process: Kevin Allemagne, Bill Allen, Shayne Anderson, Ashley Barrera, Markie Blumer, Tom Carlson, Megan Dolbin-McNab, Jared Durtschi, Stephen Fife, Patti Follansbee, Lauren Fortner, Irena Glover, Mary Sue Green, Jeffrey Jackson, Carmen Knudson-Martin, Linda Ladd, Yvonne Makidon, Christi McGeorge, Megan Murphy, Nino Alba, Catie O'Neal, Spencer Olmstead, Shruti Paulsen, Colleen Peterson, Brian Ready, Rachel Tambling, and Richard Wampler.

One of the most exciting offerings will be a collaboration with the RF, EM, and FFS sections—a special session featuring Manisha Daneshpour, Froma Walsh, and Tom Carlson talking about “Steadying the Tectonic Plates: On Being Spiritual, Feminist, and Professional.”

At the 2010 FT section meeting we began serious discussion about creating a focus group that would help us reach out to members of other sections, addressing a topic of widespread interest in NCFR. At this point the Executive Committee is gathering supporters for a proposal, and Lauren Messina has volunteered to coordinate the effort. The tentative area of interest for the group relates to families on the union dissolution/recoupling/family reconfiguration spectrum. Please let me know if you would like to add your energy to this new effort.



Feminism and Family Studies Section News

by Lisa Taylor, Section Chair 2009–2011, ltaylor@eiv.edu

Hello from the Feminism and Family Studies section! By the time readers have this issue of *Report* in their hands the conference will be weeks away and attendees will be finalizing their travel plans. Most likely a lot of the finalizing centers around the conference schedule. Let me make things a little easier for the FF section membership—and other members interested in attending FF sponsored sessions, papers, and meetings! FF section members won't be disappointed by the conference schedule as there are many stimulating programs to attend. On Wednesday, the first paper session sponsored by FF will start at 10am, "Viewing Various Forms of Violence from A Feminist Perspective." Wednesday evening at 5pm there is a symposium on methodological innovations and opportunities in studying LGBT parent families called "Innovations in Methodology." And of course FF members will want to be at the annual FF business meeting at 8pm Wednesday night.

On Thursday, research regarding LGBT families "Supporting LGBT Families Financially, Socially, And Developmentally" will be presented at 8am and an afternoon session on fathering ("Fathering in context") will be featured at 1:15pm. On Friday, the first special session co-hosted by the FF section will begin at 1:45pm. The session is called "On Being Spiritual, Feminist, Academic, and Therapist" and invited speakers include Manijeh Daneshpour, Froma Walsh, and Tom Carlson. The idea to invite Dr. Daneshpour to speak about her work on religion and feminism came out of the section business meeting at the 2010 conference. During programming committee conference calls and meetings, the section chairs discussed co-hosting the session and inviting other speakers and expanding the talk to include therapy. This was truly a group effort and everyone is excited to hear this presentation!

Immediately following Dr. Daneshpour's session (at 3:30pm), invited speaker Shelbi Day, an attorney with the LGBT Advocacy Project from the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, will be speaking about her experiences as a lawyer with the LGBT Advocacy Project in a special session called "Overturning the Ban on Gay Adoption in the State Of Florida." And on Saturday morning at 8:15am, Ramona Faith Oswald will conduct a workshop on "Teaching Marriage Inequality in the Classroom." I'm confident that FF

section members will agree that this year's programming looks provocative.

In other section news, recall that the section is creating an FF section cookbook to raise money for the Jessie Bernard Award fund. Please contact Lyndal Khaw if you are interested in purchasing a cookbook at the conference (khawl@mail.montclair.edu). We are also hosting a live auction again this year! The one held two years ago raised a significant amount of money for the Jessie Bernard fund and was a lot of fun! Please plan on donating a service, book, or other small item (that can be carried back via luggage) for the auction. Examples of items from the previous live auction include editing of papers

by seasoned professionals in the section, a tarot card reading, belly dancing lessons, books authored by section members, posters, framed pictures, items handcrafted by section members, and gift certificates. If you are interested in donating, please contact Lyndal Khaw – we want to be able to circulate a list of items before the conference so members can map out their bidding strategies!

In closing, this is my last submission to the *Report* as section chair and I want to express my gratitude once again to the section officers and the members. I have enjoyed serving in this capacity and I appreciate the support that everyone has provided to all of the FF section officers. See you in Orlando! ■

Feminism and Family Studies Section Award winners

Barbara Gurr was selected as the Jessie Bernard Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective for her proposal entitled, "I Didn't Know We Were Queer: Transgender Children and Family Identity."

Pointing the unique contribution of the proposal, one reviewer wrote "...the project promises to challenge traditional ways of conceptualizing families... the sophistication of the feminist perspective described in the proposal will likely challenge others in the field to employ feminist scholarship in the future."

Carla Pfeffer won the Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper. Her paper is entitled, "Women's Work? Women Partners of Transgender Men Doing Housework and Emotion Work," published in JMF,

72, 165-183. One reviewer offered the following praise for the paper: "Creative study with surprising results. It makes a great contribution to feminist literature..."

The Feminism and Family Studies section would like to thank the following reviewers for their thoughtful reviews of the Jessie Bernard papers and/or proposals: Saeun Choi, Dorothy Berglund, Marsha Carolan, Elise Murowchik, Aine Humble, Julia Bernard, Leigh Leslie, Abbie Goldberg, Marilyn Coleman, Amy Blackstone, Raquel Delevi, Lynette Hoelter, Michael Johnson, J. Elizabeth Miller, Jo Lynn Cunningham, Libby Blume, Lisa Taylor, Janice Kelly, Melissa Cave, Kali Van Campen, Megan Haselschwerdt, Joyce Chang, and J.Maria Bermudez ■

Thank you donors

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

Katherine R. Allen	Melinda J. Hill	Amelia Ruth Penamon
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Yudy A. Cid	Cynthia A. Osborne	

4/1/11-6/30/11

Annual Conference update

by Cass Dorius, S/NP Representative, Conference Program Planning Committee

The SN/P section is going digital this year! Starting with the 2011 conference we will be introducing a number of technologically relevant topics and practices in our symposium and regular sessions.

- Look for our new workshop “Creating and Managing your Online Professional Identity” where presenters will discuss how to establish your online identity, how to use the internet to reach students and new professionals, and how to distinguish between your professional and personal identities on the Web.
- Attend the workshop on “How to Get into Graduate School” which is chaired by Scott Plunk, a professor who maintains a website dedicated to helping students succeed in academia by providing online resources for finding the right graduate school, preparing resumes, dealing with university forms, and creating packets for recommend writers.
- Keep your eye out for technology in our regular sessions as well. In our sessions on “How to Get an Academic Job” and “Being a Family Entrepreneur: Finding and Creating Non-academic Jobs,” presenters will give examples of online resources to help you make the best job choice possible.
- Stay ahead of the curve by attending the “How to Write a Small Grant” workshop. This year Susan Brown will provide tips for writing a center grant—the perfect funding opportunity for students and new professionals with a good research idea that isn’t quite ready for a major NIH proposal. Dr. Brown is the co-director of the National Center for Marriage and Family Research and reviews grant from her center each year. It is sure to be an interesting and relevant topic for new scholars given the current financial climate.
- Stop by the new “Gathering Place” commons area sponsored by S/NP. We will be hosting small events in the common area on Thursday and Friday: visit us during coffee hour each day to catch up or meet someone new, attend a discussion group geared toward improving affiliate councils and training leaders, or just come over to relax and check your email.
- Before and after the conference, please visit the new and improved SN/P website.

We will upload handouts for each of the SN/P sessions so that you can access the materials year-round, whether or not you attended the conference.

- Join the SN/P Facebook page to stay current on all of the new topics and players.

- Sign up to get tweets from SN/P affiliate councils. They will provide tips for improving your time at the conference and being more engaged all year long. (More later on how to do this.)

We’ll see you online and at the conference!

S/NP News

Establishing yourself in the family field: transitioning from student to professional

by Alisha M. Hardman, CFLE, Student/New Professional Representative, Education & Enrichment Section

The transition from student to new professional may be either a gradual process or an abrupt change. However, beginning the transition from student to new professional prior to graduation can be extremely beneficial. Students who begin the transition to professional early display a strong commitment to the field and may have distinct advantages following graduation and as they begin searching for a job.

There are a number of arenas that family professionals work in, including research, education, therapy, practice, and policy. Within those arenas, family professionals specialize in a number of areas as diverse as the families they serve. There are a variety of strategies that students may employ to familiarize themselves with the extensive diversity of careers within the field of family science.

- Visit work sites of interest and talk with people in the field you are exploring or conduct informational interviews about the family field.
- Gain internship and/or volunteer experience working with populations of interest to you and with programs serving families, individuals, and children.
- Seek out research experiences (even if you do not think you are interested in conducting research).

Establishing yourself in the family field requires that you develop a sense of your own interests, strengths, and philosophies regarding working with individuals and families. The above suggestions may be

helpful in identifying what arenas and specializations within the field are most appropriate for you. Also, pay attention to news, policies, program initiatives, and public opinion so that you can develop your own informed opinions about issues affecting families and children.

Becoming a member of professional organizations and participating in their activities provides one of the best pathways professional development. Participation in professional organizations often provides a variety of opportunities to:

- Attend conferences and workshops.
- Network, network, network! Take advantage of opportunities to meet professionals in the family field.
- Seek out mentors (upper level graduate students, professionals, faculty members).
- Work on public speaking and presentation skills and develop written communication skills.
- Accept leadership roles in clubs and professional organizations.
- Build your CV and/or résumé (and keep it up to date).

Since NCFR promotes the professional development and socialization of family science professionals, it provides many opportunities for students and new professionals to communicate with colleagues who have similar interests. Furthermore, being an active member allows students to become

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Networking at the NCFR conference: Top Ten Tips

by Megan Haselschwerdt

NCFR members and non-members attend the annual conference for a variety of reasons, including networking. Whether you are looking at future graduate programs, in the job market, or you want to meet new people, the annual NCFR conference is a great opportunity to network and market yourself! Here are the top ten ways to network at NCFR:

10. Attend the sessions of individuals you would like to meet or get to know and chat with them after the sessions. Think of questions to ask, common interests, or positive feedback to provide during the Q & A session or after the session is over. This is a much less intimidating way of speaking with esteemed researchers!
9. If you are too intimidated to approach another NCFR attendee on your own, ask your advisor or someone else you know to introduce you.
8. Prepare a 20-second "spiel" about who you are, what you do, and/or what you want to do before NCFR so that you feel comfortable approaching fellow students or NCFR members to introduce yourself. Practice your "spiel!"
7. Attend section meetings and volunteer to help out with newsletters, organization, or any other opportunities that may present themselves during the meetings. Getting involved in the various sections helps you network!
6. Attend all of the professional development workshops put on by the Student/New Professional group (S/NP) because they provide you with tangible ways to get involved with NCFR and enhance your conference experience.
5. Mingle with other students at the various S/NP sessions and make plans to grab coffee, a drink, or a meal together...and then stay in touch through social media! It is always fun to meet up with your new NCFR friends the following year.
4. Bring business cards so that you can hand them out to people that you meet. Check with your department or university to see if there are special deals for students.
3. Hang around the casual meeting places at the conference, including the lobby and hotel restaurants/bars. A lot of the networking and socializing takes place after the sessions and evening events are over.
2. Dress to impress. You will see a range of attire at the conference, but dressing in business attire (e.g., dress pants or skirt,

blouse, sweater, pants or dress suit) is most appropriate for students at the conference. It is important to look professional in order to be taken seriously.

1. Most importantly, relax and have fun meeting lots of amazing new people!

Please feel comfortable contacting the various S/NP representatives to start your networking today! We look forward to seeing you in Orlando. ■

Family Science Section News

by Tammy Harpel, Ph.D., CFLE, Family Science Section Chair, harpelt@latech.edu

Greetings from the Family Science section! I hope 2011 has been kind to you all and that the new academic year is off to a great start for those of you in academia. It is hard to believe that in just a few months, NCFR members will join together in Orlando for the Annual Conference. If you have looked through the conference schedule, you know this is going to be a great conference!

When I developed the call for proposals last fall, my goal was to focus the Family Science section program on the impact of the shifting economy on Family Science programs and the practice of Family Science. With that in mind, I am pleased to invite you to attend a paper session titled, "Family Science Program Issues in a Shifting Economy," on Wednesday, November 16. During the session, Suzanne Smith and Raeann Hamon will share successful marketing strategies for Family Science programs, while Elizabeth Miller, Susan Bowers, and Peter Seldin will discuss the impact of the economy on evaluation strategies. The session will conclude with a timely paper that focuses on the trajectories of HDFS undergraduates in the current economy. This paper is sure to be of interest to students and advisors!

Do you teach large classes or struggle with teaching diversity? If so, two of the Family Science conference sessions will be of interest to you On Thursday, November 17, Bahira Sherif Trask, Barbara Settles and

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involved in the profession and network with other students and professionals in the field. Seek out opportunities to be involved in NCFR and your local state or student affiliate. (Visit www.ncfr.org/affiliates.)

Take advantage of NCFR's many resources (such as the "Careers in Family Science" booklet) and maintain involvement in NCFR beyond attending the conferences by volunteering to be a conference proposal reviewer for one of the sections of NCFR or serving on the local arrangements committee when the annual conference is being held in your city! For additional ways to become more involved or if you are interested in running for a Student/New Professional (S/NP) Representative position within one of the NCFR sections, contact your S/NP Representative. (Visit www.ncfr.org/snp.)

State and student affiliate councils provide an opportunity to get involved on the local level. They often host their own conferences

or events and are governed by their own boards. Involvement and leadership roles within the affiliate councils offer a gateway into leadership opportunities in NCFR. If there is not an affiliate council in your area or at your university, consider starting one.

Preparing to become a professional is a process, which allows students to become knowledgeable about the family science field so that they can establish themselves in, advocate for, and contribute to the field. However, it is important to keep in mind that membership in a professional organization or attendance at conferences is not enough. Developing yourself into a professional requires intentional effort and involvement in the field of family science. ■

REFERENCES

National Council on Family Relations *Careers in Family Science* booklet

University of Maryland, Department of Family Studies "Careers in Family Studies: What Can I Do with this Degree?" handout

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News from the Religion and Family Life Section

by Joe D. Wilmoth, Ph.D., Section Chair, Joe.Wilmoth@msstate.edu

My experience with the Religion and Family Life Section over the past several years has continually reminded me that religion and spirituality impact virtually every area of family life and individual development. This multifaceted interaction is reflected in the program of the NCFR Conference in Orlando.

How spirituality impacts our professional roles will be addressed in a special session jointly sponsored by the Religion and Family Life, Family Therapy, Feminism and Family Studies, and Ethnic Minorities sections: "Steadying the Tectonic Plates: On Being Spiritual, Feminist, and Professional." Outstanding presenters include Froma Walsh, Manijeh Daneshpour, and Tom Carlson, with Marianne Miller serving as facilitator. This session will be Friday at 1:45pm.

Some outstanding proposals were submitted to the Religion and Family Life Section this year. We will be sponsoring two paper sessions, a roundtable, and a number of posters. The following papers will be presented Thursday at 1:45pm:

- "Emotion Work and Couples' Religion," Christopher G. Ellison and Xiaohu Xu

- "Between Sundays: A Case Study of a Religious Organization Influence on Korean Immigrant Adult Learning," Byoungchul Joseph Jun and Hye-Sun Ro
- "The Silent Exodus of Second Generation Chinese Americans in Chinese Churches," Peter Lim and Karen Quek
- "Stress and Life Satisfaction of Children of Clergy: A Retrospective Study," Cynthia B. Wilson and Carol A. Darling.

The following papers will be presented at 8:15am on Friday:

- "Pilot Testing the Marriage Garden with Faith Leaders," James P. Marshall and H. Wallace Goddard
- "Are You My Mother? Evangelical Perceptions on Maternal God Images," Julie A. Zaloudek
- "Thankful Prayers and Faithful Hearts: The Relationship between Prayers of Gratitude and Infidelity," Preston Charles Brown, Nathan M. Lambert, and Frank D. Fincham
- "Church-based Social Capital and Racial Socialization in African American Families," Cindy L. Lilly, Andrea G. Hunter, and Anne C. Fletcher.

I recently received a query from a student in the process of applying for graduate school. She was looking for a program where she could pursue research related to religion and the family, and she reported, "I have not found one family studies graduate program that has faculty working on anything relating to spirituality and/or religion." Although I sent her a brief of scholars whose research addresses religion and family, I thought it might be helpful for future reference to compile a more systematic list of such programs. As a start, if you are a professor in a graduate program doing research in religion and the family, please send information about your program to me, and I will try to make it available to potential graduate students. You can contact me at Joe.Wilmoth@msstate.edu.

Another ongoing project of the Religion and Family Life section is to compile syllabi of courses that address issues related to religion and family life. If you teach such a course, please email me a copy of the syllabus, and I will forward it to the appropriate person. If you know of a course someone else is teaching, please send me contact information for the instructor. ■

News from the E & E Section

by Susan Walker, Education and Enrichment Section Chair, skwalker@umn.edu

November in Orlando promises far more than Mickey Mouse and Shamu for members of the Education and Enrichment section. At this year's NCFR conference in Orlando, E&E members will find a variety of opportunities to learn, connect, and strengthen their professional development. Oh, and maybe take

in a little Florida sunshine and nightlife. (We are the party section, right?)

As a section with the greatest number of members and receiving a large number of proposals, we are well represented across all days—from Wednesday morning through Saturday afternoon of the conference. Paper

sessions sponsored by the section include topics on program evaluation, teaching methods, care and education of children in early years, educational programs for couples and the use of technology by and for parents. As usual there are quite a number of research posters across diverse topics of interest to E&E members, and this year's roundtables and symposia focus on distance learning, on-line parent education design, and finances and relationships, and the week includes a workshop on "The Domains of Family Practice."

Our section's focus groups will meet in Orlando, so look in the program to attend the groups that resonate with your interests (even those that meet at 7am). This year our section has two **new** focus groups, Divorce Education and Families and Technology. The former is a newly formed focus group that addresses professionals who design, provide and evaluate educational programs for families experiencing divorce and separation. Families and Technology is resurrected and now sponsored by the E&E section. I will be the moderator, so please join us if you are interested in research and programming related to families' use of information, communications and entertainment technologies, and the use of technology in the delivery of education and service to families. Every year there are more posters, papers and symposia on this topic and it was obvious that NCFR needed the focus group to again exist. Also this year an interest meeting on

education and enrichment
continued on page 16

Research and Theory Section News

by Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, shelley@purdue.edu

Greetings from the Research and Theory section! I am very pleased to report that there were more submissions for the 2011 conference than in any conference in the past decade! Congratulations to the NCFR staff for great marketing, to our very effective leaders and program chair, and to all of you for submitting! Orlando promises to be a very stimulating meeting.

Research and theory sessions at the conference will cover a wide range of topics, from the social ecology of adolescence, to acculturation in immigrant families, to family work, to marriage and divorce and everything in between! There also will be a special postconference session on military families, as well as a special meeting to explore interest in a focus group on military families. I'm going to be reaching out to some of you to serve as discussants and observers for sessions at the conference; thank you in advance for your assistance!

I'd like to again remind you all that our future award winners are depending upon your donations to ensure that we do not have to reduce the frequency of our awards in the future. We decided at last year's meeting to draw on our reserves to sustain our award accounts through the economic downturn, but this is a strategy that will work for only a very short time. Please consider making a gift to NCFR to support the 2011 Research and Theory section awards, and be sure to designate that on your check. All the future award winners thank you!

Please remember to encourage students to attend the conference **and** the business meetings. This is a great way for them to gain skill and experience at the national level, as well as a great way to network with more advanced scholars.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me anytime at shelley@purdue.edu. In the meantime, best wishes for a productive fall semester. ■

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Melina McConatha-Rosle will present a workshop titled, "Highlighting Family Science, Ethics and Writing Assignments: The Challenge of Large Classes." In addition, you do not want to miss the symposium titled, "Reflective and Practical Strategies of Teaching Diversity in Family Sciences." Soyoung Lee will chair this symposium which consists of four papers focusing on teaching about and preparing students for diversity.

In addition to the aforementioned sessions, the Family Science section is also co-sponsoring a number of paper sessions with other sections, and sponsoring several poster sessions and one roundtable. I encourage you to search through the conference sched-

ule and plan to attend the various Family Science presentations and sessions.

Finally, I want to call your attention to two meetings—the Family Science Section Meeting and the University Administrators Focus Group Meeting. The Family Science Section Meeting is scheduled for 7 to 8:15am on Thursday, November 17. I hope you will rise early and attend the meeting! In addition to discussing official business, we will present the Wesley Burr Student Paper Award to this year's recipient. All students who were first author of a paper or poster accepted specifically by the Family Science section for this year's conference, and who are members of NCFR and the Family Science section, are eligible to enter the competition. Email

notifications were sent to eligible students during the summer. Advisors and mentors, if one of your students was invited to participate in the competition, please encourage them to submit their paper by the deadline of October 1. If they need additional information about the award, they can contact me at harpelt@latech.edu. The University Administrators Focus Group will convene on Wednesday, November 16 from 8 to 9:30pm. Last year's meeting was well-attended and involved interesting discussion about the issues confronted by university administrators. If you are an administrator, I invite you to attend this focus group meeting!

I look forward to seeing you in November! ■

in this issue:

**Family Focus on...
Intergenerational Relationships**

Elections Council seeks leaders for NCFR

From the Elections Council: Katherine Allen and Stephan Wilson (co-chairs), Alan C. Acock, Sandra J. Bailey, Laura A. Sanchez, Karen Wampler (members); Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Board Liaison to the Elections Council

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

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

- Board President-Elect (2013-2015; President 2015-2017)
- Two Board Members-at-Large (2013-2016)
- Affiliate Councils President-Elect (2013-2015)
- Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect (2013-2014)
- Program Chair-Elect (2013-2014; Program Chair 2015)
- Two Elections Council members (2013-2016)
- Two Fellows Committee members (2013-2016)

Each year we begin our work on the next election cycle at the annual conference, asking sections to nominate potential candidates for the organizational level positions that need to be filled and encouraging individuals to nominate either themselves or others. Last year we were more than pleased at the number of candidates who offered to run for office, and we are excited about the outstanding list of potential candidates we have before us. We are now in the process of contacting potential candidates to ask them to run in the 2012 election.

In the spring, we will meet to identify and discuss possible candidates for 2013 who have been identified by nomination or who appear on lists of members who have previously served in leadership positions across

the organization. We consider not only the experience of individual candidates, but also the structure of the overall slate, asking ourselves if we are building a slate that reflects the strength and diversity of the organization and its members.

The Elections Council's responsibility is to help NCFR members match their leadership abilities to the leadership opportunities that abound within our organization, and we take seriously the NCFR Board's charge to find the right people who are willing to have their names placed on the ballot each year. We are guided by the operating values outlined in the NCFR by-laws and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures. Our desire is to build a slate that represents the entire NCFR membership and that reflects and promotes the mission and goals of NCFR. ■

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starting a focus group on Military Families will happen during the conference. This won't be sponsored by our section but remember that focus groups are open to everyone.

And what would the annual conference be without the section business meeting? And what would the E&E business meeting be without chocolate? Be sure to join us Friday night (November 18) at 7:45p.m. for chocolate and good cheer and a bit of E&E business.

Finally, this year the E&E section will announce the winner of the Ernest Osborne award. As you may remember, in 2009 Ramona Oswald was the winner of the biannual award. Please join us in congratulating the 2011 recipient in Orlando.

On behalf of the other section officers—Beth Van Horn, Jackie Wilkins, Carolyn Grasse-Bachman and Alisha Hardman—we very much look forward to seeing you and meeting you in person in Orlando. ■