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Couples

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The 73rd Annual Conference

Families and the Shifting Economy

November 16-19, 2011

Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida

Leonor Boulton Johnson, Ph.D.,
Program Chair

www.ncfr.org/conference

Registration is open now for
the 2011 Annual Conference.

Register early...registration costs
are the same as 2010 through
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See back cover for major presenters.

Fellows named for 2010

Fellows status is an honor awarded to members of NCFR who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to family science in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach, and professional service, including service to NCFR. Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected by the Fellows Committee.

Charles R. Figley, Ph.D., is Professor and Director of the Traumatology Institute and the Psychosocial Stress Research Program at Tulane University. He has presented across international boundaries more than 431 times during lectures, speeches, and conferences. His scholarship includes more than 105 refereed journal articles, 21 books, and 45 book chapters. In short, his scholarship has influenced the field of trauma psychology across the world.

Dr. Figley's service on prominent journals such as the *Journal of Trauma Psychology* and the *Journal of Family Psychotherapy* demonstrates his leadership in the field of trauma psychology. In addition to his current service on 14 editorial boards and two editorships, his expertise is sought at prestigious universities around the world. Kuwait University, University of Utrecht (Netherlands), and Cornell University invited him to hold various visiting distinguished



Charles Figley

appointments throughout his tenure. Prior to Dr. Figley's current appointment, he founded and directed the Florida State University Traumatology Institute from 1998–2008. Dr. Figley was the first recipient of the American Psychological Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in Trauma Psychology in August 2009.

David Johnson, Ph.D., is a professor of sociology and the Academic Director, Programming and Statistics Core, Population Research Institute, at Pennsylvania State University. He was also the founding director of the Survey Research Center at Penn State. Before assuming his current position, Dr. Johnson was the director of the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska, where he also won a university-wide award for teaching excellence.

Dr. Johnson is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert on the factors that affect marital quality and stability. He also has done research on how mental health—depression in particular—is affected by economic hardship. In addition, he has conducted pioneering work on how hormones such as testosterone affect marital quality, children's adjustment, and mental health. Finally, he has written influential and widely cited papers on methodological issues, including techniques for analyzing multiwave panel data, adjusting for clustering in survey data, and the estimation

fellows named continued on page 4



David Johnson



Raeann Hamon



Jeffrey Larson



Gary Lee

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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Students/New Professionals President for a Day! Congratulations to Megan Haselschwerdt

A panel of reviewers selected Megan Haselschwerdt to serve as the 2010 Students/New Professionals (S/NP) President for a Day based on her commitment, energy, and innovation in service to NCFR. She has supported and furthered the organization's mission through previous conference volunteering, year-round service to her university's student affiliate, and her efforts to foster community among S/NPs. She also was evaluated based on her responses to questions about why she joined NCFR, what she has accomplished, what she sees as her future role in the organization, and what it would mean to her to be president for one day. In recognition of her dedication, Megan received a \$750 conference travel stipend and the opportunity to shadow current NCFR Board President Dr. Gary Bowen during one day of the conference.

Megan became a member of NCFR in the fall of 2007 when she started graduate school at the University of Illinois. Although she did not know much about NCFR or academia beyond her undergraduate research experience, she recognized the importance of conferences and involvement in national organizations for her professional development in graduate school and beyond. Since joining NCFR, she has been a member of the Feminism and Family Studies and Research and Theory sections and currently serves as the S/NP Representative for the FFS Section.



She also is involved with the affiliate councils, serving as Affiliate Secretary and Chair of the Education and Enrichment Committee of the Illinois Student Council on Family Relations (ISCFR). Megan currently coordinates S/NP contributions for NCFR *Report* along with fellow S/NP Michael Sturm.

During her graduate career, Megan has had the opportunity to work on several research projects focused on intimate partner violence (IPV), divorce, custody, and coparenting with her advisor, Dr. Jennifer Hardesty. Currently, she is a member of a research team consisting of a number of faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students. Their two-year, NIH-funded longitudinal study examines women's experiences coparenting with their former partners following divorce.

Megan's research focuses on issues surrounding IPV in the context of separation or divorce. Her master's thesis examined custody evaluators' beliefs about IPV and how their beliefs are related to their recommendations to the court. Her dissertation will explore various resilience processes experienced by adolescents who have been exposed to various types of IPV based on Michael Johnson's Typology of IPV (e.g., intimate terrorism and situational couple violence). Her goal is to contribute to the adolescent IPV exposure literature by applying a strengths-based model and emphasizing the need to make distinctions between different types of IPV in research and practice.

Megan says that being NCFR President for a Day will open doors to new academic relationships and broaden her experiences regarding all the hard work that goes into being a successful leader. She said she "can't think of a better person from whom to learn than Dr. Gary Bowen."

The President-for-a-Day Award is sponsored by the Affiliate Councils Board (ACB) in collaboration with the S/NP Leadership Council, was created by Amanda Williams, ACB S/NP representative, and was inspired by Maxine Hammonds-Smith, NCFR Board past president.



Life goes on: Getting the job done!

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

It's Thursday, December 30, 2010, at 7:23 a.m. and I am sitting in a small café in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, having my first cup of coffee for the day. I just dropped a birthday card in the postal box for my father, who turns 85 years old on New Year's Day. My daughter, her husband, and their three kids (ages 9, 7, and 3) spent the night last night in my small condo. Their furnace had stopped working, and this has been an unusually cold winter so far in North Carolina. With only 1,288 square feet in the condo, I think you may understand why I am up and out early this morning. Everyone was still sleeping when I left; it was more like an escape than leaving. One task for today is to write this column. It's hard to believe that classes will start at the university a week from Monday, and I still have two syllabi to get ready. With a little luck, my wife, Donna, and I will be joining some friends at Bald Head Island, North Carolina, for a New Year's Eve celebration tomorrow night. Life goes on!

You may wonder what this pedantic accounting of my morning and my plans for today and this coming weekend has to do with NCFR. In some ways, it has absolutely nothing to do with NCFR; in other ways, it has everything to do with NCFR. It does remind me that time goes by quickly, and each day is filled with tasks and activities. As my friend and fellow NCFR member, Jim Martin, says, "Life is full!"

A little more than one year ago I wrote my first column as president of NCFR—this is my fifth column. I am suddenly aware that I have spent more months being president than I have left in my term. The board members who were on the Board of Directors when I began my term have all completed their terms, and I will rotate off the Board in November, 2011. Consequently, I sit here in the café, which is slowly filling with people, contemplating what I can realistically accomplish in the next nine months, as well as what I want to ask of you as members.

First, let me divert for a moment to make a few comments about the 2010 NCFR Conference. Wow! Ramona Faith Oswald, the 2010 Annual Conference Program Chair, and the conference planning committee did a wonderful job in putting this conference together. The content was outstanding; plenaries and sessions were well-attended and highly informative; and the general atmosphere at the conference was collegial, supportive, and celebratory. Even the weather cooperated—we had a week of clear and beautiful blue skies in Minneapolis.

I was moved by the memorial service for some of NCFR's most cherished members who had passed away during the past year, and I was given hope for the future by spending the day with Megan Haselschwerdt, a Ph.D. student in human and community development at the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign, who shadowed me for one full day (from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.). Megan was this year's winner of the NCFR Students/New Professionals President-for-a-Day Award, which was inspired by the late Maxine Hammonds-Smith, NCFR Board past president. I also enjoyed introducing NCFR to Christina Kustermann and Kathrin Maierhofer, graduate students in clinical and family psychology from Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, Germany (established in 1472). Christina and Kathrin were spending the semester with me and my colleagues at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. If you have any doubts about NCFR's bright future, I would recommend just spending a little time with some of our student and new professional members, including the undergraduates.

The planning for the 2011 conference in Orlando, Florida, "Families and the Shifting Economy," is well under way. I am most appreciative of the efforts of Leonor Boulton Johnson, 2011 Program Chair, and the program committee. This is a prelude to my first request. The 2010 Annual Conference was one of the best-attended NCFR conferences in years. Let's work together to exceed this past year's conference attendance—the bar is high, but Orlando is a great location. (By the way, I plan to have those three grandkids, Cameron, Susannah, and Charlotte Jane, with me at the conference—don't worry, I will bring help.) First, if you did not attend last year's conference, please come. If you have not attended in a couple of years, it's time to return. Second, please reach out to your colleagues and students and invite them to attend the conference. I know that budgets are tight these days, but please provide or advocate for funding for students to attend. In particular, contact your international colleagues and invite them to be part of NCFR—NCFR needs to increase its global involvement and reach. Please share the good news about NCFR with others!

Thank you donors

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

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
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of fixed-effects models. His book, *Alone Together: How Marriage in America is Changing* (2009, Harvard University Press), coauthored with Paul R. Amato, Alan Booth, and Stacy J. Rogers, was in such demand that it appeared in paperback within two years of its initial publication.

He has served as principal investigator or co-investigator on grants that have totaled several millions of dollars from agencies such as the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute on Mental Health, the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Johnson has helped to organize and has taken part in special NCFR workshops designed to help students and faculty learn how and when to use new statistical techniques. Finally, Dr. Johnson has also contributed to NCFR by serving as a deputy editor and continuously serving on the editorial board of *Journal of Marriage and Family* since 1985.

Raeann R. Hamon, Ph.D., CFLE, is Distinguished Professor of Family Science and Gerontology and Chairperson in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Messiah College. She also is former Interim Dean, School of Education and Social Sciences, and Chairperson, Behavioral Science Department, at Messiah. She received her B.A. degree in Behavioral Science from Messiah College and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Family and Child Development/Family Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Dr. Hamon is a recognized leader in the field of family science. Her scholarship includes contributions to at least 35 books and peer-reviewed journal articles. These include such major works as the multi-volume *International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family*; the text *Exploring Family Theories*; *Cultural Diversity and Families: Expanding Perspectives*; *International Family Studies: Developing Curricula and Teaching Tools*; *Mate Selection Across Cultures*; "Old People Say..." *Tales From Eleuthera*; and a seminal special issue of the *Journal of Teaching in Marriage and Family: Innovations in Family Science Education on Service-learning and Family Science*.

She has pioneered in the evolving field of cross-cultural research and theory building and attended to a research/theory agenda examining the intersection between faith

and learning. In addition, she has given presentations at 97 professional conferences and 33 invited workshops and served as a manuscript reviewer or as an editorial board advisory member for the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Family Relations*, *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, the *Family Science Review*, and the *Journal of Family Ministry*. She has taught 18 different courses and twice received Excellence in Teaching awards. An outstanding mentor of students, Dr. Hamon has provided scholar intern grants for students and an NCFR Mini Start-up Grant for Campus Affiliates, promoted undergraduate study abroad, and played a leading role in the Family Science Association, sponsor of the annual "Teaching Family Science" conference.

Jeffrey H. Larson, Ph.D., LMFT, CFLE, is a professor in the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, and former chairperson of the Marriage and Family Graduate Program at BYU. Prior to coming to BYU, Dr. Larson served as Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Montana State University and faculty member at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Dr. Larson is known nationally and internationally for his scholarship in marriage and family therapy theory, practice, and research. In addition to his teaching, practice and administration of marriage and family, he has been a prolific researcher and writer. He was recognized in a research article for the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* as one of eight most published scholars in 19 MFT doctoral programs during the years 2003-2009, as well as being one of six most cited scholars in the same time period. He has published over one hundred articles in juried professional journals in family therapy as well as NCFR journals. He is the author of several books: *Should We Stay Together: A Scientifically Proven Method for Evaluating your Relationship and Improving its Chances for Long-Term Success* (Jossey-Bass, 2000) and *The Great Marriage Tune-Up Book* (ebook, 2004).

Dr. Larson has remained consistently active in NCFR activities throughout the years. Among numerous positions at NCFR, he served as chair for the Family Therapy Section, member of the *Family Relations* Editorial Board, editor for a special issue of *Family Relations* on "Innovations in Marriage Education," and a member of the CFLE Academic Program Review Committee.

Gary Lee, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Bowling Green State University, is among the most honored and long-contributing members of NCFR. Dr. Lee's scholarly work foreshadowed cutting-edge themes that have come to dominate research on families in recent years. Since the mid-1970s, he has written extensively on depression as an outcome of well-being, gender differences, and cultural and subcultural variations in marriage and family life. Although his contributions have addressed a wide range of topics, he is perhaps best known for his research on aging and the family. His contributions to the study of aging have focused on such topics as the rural elderly, kinship networks, and parental care and its effects. He is the author or co-author of 6 books, 31 book chapters, and over 65 refereed journal articles, and is the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on several grants funded by the National Institutes of Health and other agencies.

Dr. Lee is an award-winning teacher and mentor. He won NCFR's Ernest G. Osborne Award in 1995 and the University of Florida's Outstanding Instructor of the Year Award from Students for the Advancement of Gerontological Education in 1994-1995. His papers have been nominated on four occasions for the Reuben Hill Award. Dr. Lee has been a dedicated servant to NCFR as a member of the Board of Directors for three different terms; chair of the International Section; and as a member of the Editor's Search Committee for *Family Relations*, the Osborne Award Committee, and the Reuben Hill Award Committee. He likewise has been extensively involved in service roles in the American Sociological Association and as associate editor of a number of journals, including *Journal of Family Issues*, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, and *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. Prior to his current leadership role at Bowling Green State University, Dr. Lee was a full professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Florida for a number of years and held other administrative positions, including the directorship of the Sanford Center for Aging, University of Nevada, Reno.

The 2010 Fellows Committee members were Greer Litton Fox, Chair; Robert M. Milardo; Frank Fincham; Shirley M.H. Hanson; Catherine A. Surra. ■



New seasons, new systems

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

Here at NCFR, our financial assistant **Pat Knutson-Grams** has a “countdown to spring” sign posted on her door that reads 46 days. As I write this, Minneapolis will gain 2 minutes and 38 seconds of daylight today over yesterday. This time of year, Minnesotans look for every sign that the long winter is about to end. This spring issue of *NCFR Report* reminds me that crocuses and jonquils, tulips and hyacinths are only a few weeks away and that soon we will be able to walk about outside comfortably without Sorel boots and face masks.

The cold of January didn’t keep the Affiliate Councils Board away. For the third consecutive year, they flew to Minneapolis to strategize ways to build a vibrant network of affiliates across the United States and around the world. Thank you **Chloe Merrill, Minnell Tralle, Joanne Roberts, Lloyd Pickering, Dani Taylor, Angela Rushton,** and **Richard Sale** for investing your time and talents in NCFR. Affiliates matter!

Spring is about new beginnings and NCFR has one of its own. Check out www.ncfr.org. You’ll find a content-rich, dynamic new website that provides a platform for informa-

tion exchange that can enhance the professional lives of all our members and serve as a window for the world into this field of “family.” You know the adage, “If you build it, they will come.” This is a shout-out to NCFR sections, affiliate councils, and student affiliate councils to develop content for the new website. For example, the Religion & Family Life Section had been working on a bibliography of resources for section members. On the website this information becomes a searchable document library. In development is a “Practitioners’ Resource Library” that will function in much the same way. Members can “recommend” a resource to others and comment on documents contained in the online libraries. There will soon be the entire archive of TCRM (Theory Construction and Research Methodology) preconference workshop papers on the website as well.

While the NCFR staff has been busy creating and editing content for this new website, it’s you, the member, who will make this site worth returning to day after day. You can “Share Your Story,” submit your memories about the history of NCFR, recommend a

textbook, contribute to the NCFR Community Blog, post your photos, and suggest ways in which this site can communicate to members and the rest of the world what you do and why it matters.

I’ve asked the section leaderships to think about ways that sections can engage their members in addition to planning for the annual conference. For example, we are hearing from members who have an interest in military families; some are researchers, others are family therapists, and still others are family life educators. At the same time we have been reviewing the recently released (January 2011) report by the U.S. government titled, “Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America’s Commitment.” There’s an intersection between the recommendations in this report and the skills and knowledge of NCFR members. Some of you are on the front lines of this work. One of the commitments made in this report is to “... leverage partnerships with professional associations and academic institutions to ensure military culture is included in core curricula and published standards.” This is an opportunity for NCFR to increase its visibility with the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Veterans Administration. To do so, we have to apply the know-how and connections that you have. If you’re interested, keep an eye out for an invitation to join the new NCFR Military Families Focus Group.

This is the beginning of the next stage for NCFR. The administrative infrastructure and member organizations have all been updated and improved. Our membership is growing. Our journals are better than ever. Now it’s time to engage members, listen carefully, and act quickly. We can’t take months or years to operationalize a great idea. We have to do it in weeks or days, and sometimes hours. It’s a challenge your NCFR

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In my platform statement as president-elect, I promised to work in “full partnership with NCFR’s Board and membership to forge a clear and compelling direction, strategy, and culture for future success.” In consultation with the Board of Directors, we decided to focus on redrafting NCFR’s Ends policies, which is consistent with this platform. I have mentioned this effort in earlier President’s Reports. We have made good progress in specifying key outcomes for both membership groups and external stakeholder groups.

The Board of Directors now needs your input—this is my second request. I met with the section chairs at this past year’s conference and reviewed the work to date with them. They strongly reinforced creating a mechanism for member input. Soon after you receive this issue of *NCFR Report*, there will be a member survey coming from NCFR headquarters. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions. With your input, we hope the Board will be able to complete work on this product during its retreat in June, 2011. Life goes on—thanks for the partnership and for helping the Board get the job done!

May peace be with you and your family. ■



The Practitioner Resource Library

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

Here is just a sampling of the questions and requests posted regularly on the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) listserv.

"I am interested in opinions and articles delineating the distinctions between parent education, parent training and parent coaching."

"Is anyone familiar with materials (e.g., journal articles, websites, books, etc.) about today's electronic devices (particularly smartphones) and their impact on family

functioning (such as parent-child relationships, marital relationships, parenting quality, etc.)."

"It seems to me that some of what mental health providers are addressing could be addressed as well (if not more effectively in some cases) by professionals in our field. In this way, costs are reduced and mental health practitioners can focus on clinical diagnoses and treatment. I am trying to find out what a model like this might look like and how it is funded. If anyone has

information or insights about this issue, I'd love to hear it!"

"I am looking for sexuality and human relationship resources (books, videos, movies, and websites) that can be used by teachers and parents as both background and for direct use with their students or sons and daughters."

"I'm looking for recommendations for undergraduate textbooks dealing with family dynamics."

"I work as the adult education coordinator at a homeless shelter for women and children. Our education department is working in collaboration with our client services/case managers to find (or develop if need be) a holistic tool that would help us assess the literacy, job readiness, and parenting skills of the adult women moving into a two-year transitional housing program."

"Can anyone recommend a parenting styles inventory that has been used in empirical research studies? I am looking especially for one that uses Baumrind's work in its formulation."

"I'm working for a nonprofit after school/summer based organization serving 95% Hispanic youth living in lower income households. My responsibility is to prepare these children for college or careers. I'm searching for curricula, information about workshops being offered, or any other helpful tips. If you have any resources I would appreciate the assistance."

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Certified Family Life Educators

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

Alabama

Melissa Sudduth

Arizona

Alfred Dodini (full)
Isa Jones

California

Michelle Stewart Thomas (full)

Florida

Mark Roseman (full)
Patricia Snawerdt
Amber Venum

Illinois

Nick Barkan
Ashley Robinson

Iowa

Roxanne Fevold

Kansas

James Monk

Kentucky

Erica Nordquist

Maryland

Sarah Stevens

Michigan

Mona Farroukh
Carrie Hays

Margarett Hubel

Brent Hughes
Margaret Mohr
Alecia Pollard
Michelle Pung
Amanda Ruden

Minnesota

Nancy Melquist (full)
Kari Osmek

Mississippi

Kasey Chisolm

Missouri

Justin Bastin

Nebraska

Amy Hegarty

Nevada

Jennifer Quinlan

New Hampshire

Julianne Cleary

New Jersey

Francesca Cangeloso

North Carolina

Kendra Matvey
Janice McGilberry

North Dakota

Kristen Benson (full)

Ohio

Nicole Gibbons
Deborah Hendricks
Danielle Ickes
Anastasia Olecki
Jee Sook Park

Oregon

Deborah Coehlo (full)

Tennessee

Nafiseh Arman

Texas

Amanda Averbeck
Julia Compton (full)
Pamela Peter (full)
Karen Schweighofer
Lisa Steffek

Utah

Hollie Dabb
Kimberly Hyde
Paul Leopold
Bruce North
Joseph Ostenson

Washington

Erin Alexander

Canada (Quebec)

Erica Kohos

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staff is up to. Go ahead and give us a chance to over-deliver on your expectations. We thrive on making your day! And on making NCFR the organization you turn to for information, networking, professional growth, affirmation of your expertise, and renewed energy from hanging out with your professional heroes and lifelong friends. ■



Everything I needed to know about true love I learned in my bathroom

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

Last September, my husband and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. I thought that when we hit this milestone, I would reach some epiphany or acquire some sage insights as to why we made it while half of couples do not. The truth is I am no expert and have only speculation. There are hardworking, very good people whose marriages have dissolved. We are not better in any way. I can say we loved each other, but that's not unique. Presumably all couples entering marriage walk down the aisle in love and with intentions of a lifelong relationship.

George and I had several factors going for us that demographers identify as factors correlated with lifelong marriage. We were old enough, at 32 and 25. We both had college degrees. Neither of us had been married before. Both sets of parents were married. We did not have a lot of debt. We didn't have a child for almost three years. We had similar values in terms of relationship egalitarianism and financial management.

Still, we had some areas of heterogamy that we know can be risk factors. While we have identical definitions of morality, we come from and have different religious beliefs. We come from two different cultures and countries of origin. We did not have a great number of shared interests, especially early in our marriage.

Over time, we closed some important gaps. While research tells us that transitioning to parenthood lowers marital satisfaction, the birth of our son gave us a new, compelling shared interest. Our political beliefs drifted toward each other's. After much lobbying on my behalf, he finally agreed to get a dog (which I thought was essential for a happy life). He is now so wild about dogs that when I suggested we not get another dog when our last one died, he wouldn't hear of it. We have found ways to combine our interests. I like antiques—he likes electronics. So we go to

flea markets. I look at the antiques. He looks for vintage radios that he loves to restore.

In my business, you don't read a lot of first-person marriage memoirs that aren't full of superlatives. We all want to look as if we have perfect lives. But I know the score from 25 years of experience and from talking with friends—and even strangers on airplanes. In their honest moments, even those in intact relationships invariably tell me three things: (a) it's darn hard work, (b) they've all had moments where they've been scared about the future, and (c) there is a lot of luck involved.

At any time, life can deal a crushing blow. A car accident. A chronic illness. A layoff. A house fire ... or the loss of a child. There are plenty more where those came from. I venture to say that every relationship has its breaking point. (Incidentally, George and I have survived all of the above.)

We made it. A demographer friend tells me that the likelihood for divorce after 25 years is low. I'm a "lifer." And George is too, not because he has a perfect wife, but because we are each other's favorite companion. Also, we have another protective factor—he just hates change, which is one of the key reasons he appealed to me in the first place. He is Steady-Eddie, Even-Steven stable. I have a best friend who loves to see me succeed, a person who loves the same kid as much as I do, and someone who loves ani-

mals. He is gentle and generous. He's the brightest man I've ever met. (He can add, subtract, multiply, and divide in Base 16 in his head!) Our differences have been growth opportunities for both of us—I know way more about the software engineering process than I would have, and the same goes for him and family studies. We've seen each other at our worst and still come back for more. Perhaps the question that is more important is: "Knowing all you do now, would you still pick the same person?" My answer is an emphatic "yes."

One protective factor for us was that we didn't get hung up on following a recipe for marriage. Date night? Forget it. Our son didn't sleep through the night until he was two. We both preferred to stay home to go to sleep early in lieu of passing out into our eggplant parmesan. He never remembers my birthday—or our anniversaries. I could've made a big deal out of this over the years, but haven't. I know he doesn't even remember his *own* birthday, so it's nothing personal. He's relentlessly cheerful in the morning, but I've learned to live with it. He doesn't come home with flowers. But he carefully maintains my car, and my laptop always has the latest updates and virus checkers, which is to me more thoughtful and practical. I have more imperfections than he, which he has overlooked or taken with good humor. Among them is my title as the world's worst cook. Early in our marriage, I tried making

report from minneapolis continued on page 8



Another protective factor for a lasting marriage is social support from one's community. At the last annual conference, an anniversary gift was left for me at the registration desk. NCFR member, Fellow, Margaret Arcus Award winner—and dear friend—Wally Goddard found out that George and I made it to "25." Wally, an expert woodworker, engraved this solid oak plaque for the occasion. We will treasure it always.

"I teach an undergraduate internship course. One of my student's site supervisor wants to create a list of must-have books for parents and caregivers that they could purchase at bookstores (e.g., Barnes and Noble). He would like to include books on the prevention of child abuse, general parenting books, and books about providing developmentally appropriate care. What would you recommend?"

The ability to tap each other for information on recommended curricula, textbooks, or advice has become a major benefit of being a Certified Family Life Educator.

With the launch of NCFR's new website, this type of information will be more readily available. The new website will include a **Professional Resource** section which includes a number of great features including a *Practitioner Resource Library*, *Grant writing Resources*, *Publishing Tips*, *access to NCFR listservs*, and a brand new feature, *Find a Degree Program* which includes information on family degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate level in the U.S. and Canada. Throughout the **Professional Resources** section of the NCFR website, users are able to search, using keywords, for a variety of resources.

The intention of the **Practitioner's Resource Library** is to provide an online resource for educators, researchers, and other professionals to identify peer-reviewed resources. It will also provide an opportunity for members to pool their knowledge. There will be opportunities for back-and-forth discussion and feedback as well. The Practitioner's Resource

Library is currently only available to NCFR members but we are working on a way for CFLEs who are not members of NCFR to have access.

I've been working with an advisory council to establish a submission and review process for the Practitioners Resource Library. Members of this advisory council include **Deborah Cashen, Jodi Dworkin, H. Wallace Goddard, Jason Lehman, and Judy Myers-Walls**. We met face-to-face at the NCFR headquarters in Minneapolis in early February to work out the details of the Library. We'll be sending information on how to use and contribute to the Practitioner's Resource Library soon!

Marketing Family Life Education: Family Life Education Month

This year will provide some new marketing approaches for the family life education department. Current CFLEs have proven to be our most effective marketing tool so we will continue to make marketing pieces available for distribution. We have both a general brochure that explains the CFLE credential process, and an "employer brochure" that includes information on the field of family life education and the value of the CFLE credential to employers. We've also launched a campaign to declare February as Family Life Education Month in as many towns, cities and states as possible. CFLE **Tammy Whitten** has been spearheading an effort to increase awareness of family life education through this approach. We've developed a Family Life Education Month proclamation that can be submitted to local and state officials. In addition,

Tammy has provided helpful tips for promoting FLE month. Visit <http://www.ncfr.org/cert/news.asp> for more information. We were pleased to see that a proclamation of February as Family Life Education Month was incorporated into the pre-conference activities of the University of North Texas Parent Education Conference.

NCFR will be launching a contest with the Student Affiliates to generate promotional materials for Family Life Education Month. We held a similar contest a number of years ago that resulted in the *Family Life Education, Teaching Families, Changing Lives* poster. As a result of this contest we intend to have a lot more materials available for promoting February 2012 as Family Life Education Month.

American School Counselor Association

In addition to marketing the CFLE credential specifically, NCFR also plans to market the field of family science in general. I'll be exhibiting on behalf of NCFR and the CFLE program at the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) in Seattle in June. We hear from our members in academia that students don't often find out about careers in family science until their junior or senior year. We know that school counselors have a big role to play in familiarizing students with career options. Our hope is that our presence at the ASCA show will familiarize more school counselors about career options in family science. If you have any suggestions regarding how to market NCFR, CFLE, and family science programs in general to school counselors, please contact me at dawncassidy@ncfr.org.

report from minneapolis continued from page 7

lasagna. I didn't know that one should boil the lasagna noodles before they go in the oven. George took a bite and looked like he was eating a rawhide chew.

Although the following story is medically explicit, it's the one that, in all of my married life, best illustrates what real love looks like. In these less-than-glamorous moments, the truths about a relationship become evident. Early in our marriage, I had a bout of chronic cystitis—recurring bladder infections—a series that persisted for over a year. They are incredibly painful, and I thank God I don't get them anymore. With every subsequent infection, the bladder and urethra develop more and more scar tissue until finally the scars open up and start to bleed. At that point,

the acidic urine washes past these scars, and it's excruciating. I honestly had *less* pain recovering from my C-section a couple of years later. During one of my last infections, I was sitting on the commode for hours, crying, as I passed what felt and looked like red sulfuric acid. The doctor had started me on antibiotics, but he said it would be about 24 hours before they kicked in. During the hours that I sat there sobbing, George sat on the edge of the bathtub, holding my hand patiently and quietly, and he suffered with me. Now THAT'S love.

We've been in empty-nest mode now for several months. Conventional wisdom says this transition introduces a period of risk. Again, my experience is different. We're at

our best today. We're having tons of fun. We go out to breakfast once a week. We walk our dog regularly. As much as it's nice to have someone to talk to, it's just as wonderful to have someone to be quiet with. We have a treasure of shared history. We have a lexicon of inside jokes so refined that we can get each other to crack up with one word. After 25 years, we've had all our fights and have either worked them out or agreed to disagree. What I thought was love 25 years ago is now laughable. This—what we have after 25 years—is love.

On our anniversary, I reminded him that we've been married 25 years. He said what he always says facetiously every September 14, "Hmm. Shall we give it another year?" ■

Religion and Family Life Section seeks syllabi

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

An 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 and would be willing to share your syllabus, e-mail a copy of the syllabus to Gary Laumann, gmlaumann@eiu.edu. If you know of a course on this topic, please send the instructor's contact information to Gary as well. ■

2010 Religion and Family Life Section award winners Bryce Jorgenson (East Carolina University) and Kathleen Walker (Kent State University). Each received a check for \$250. Jorgenson received the student and new professional paper award for "The Influence of Religious Contexts on Family Commitment and Time Together," with co-authors Jay Mancini, Randal Day, and Jeremy Yorgason. Walker received the professional award for "Is Peace a Family Value? Asking Unitarian Universalists about the Iraq War," with colleagues Maureen Blankemeyer, Dana Young, and Mary Dellman-Jenkins.



Feminism and Family Studies Section News

by Lisa Taylor, Ph.D., Section Chair, lmTaylor@eiu.edu

Greetings! The holiday season is upon us as I compose this submission. Given the state of the economy this year, it is likely that many families will have to cut back or go without the traditions and activities they typically engage in during the holiday season. The unemployment rate is currently 9.3% nationally (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010) and those fortunate enough to be employed have faced many cutbacks, had to take on additional roles, or both. The 2011 NCFR conference theme, "Families and the Shifting Economy," reflects this struggle and sections are encouraged to think about how families have been affected by the lack of stability in the economy. The Feminism & Family Studies Section viewpoint is well-suited for the theme. For example, proposals could focus on how various marginalized groups have been affected by the economic transitions that have

occurred over the last several years. In addition, the location of the conference (Orlando, Florida) lends itself well to exploring issues surrounding immigration, ethnicity, and LGBT issues. FFS members are encouraged to consider proposals that highlight these topics and more.

NCFR reported that it had one of the highest attendance rates in years for the 2010 conference and the programs and plenary sessions were high-quality, strong presentations. Ramona Faith Oswald's conference leadership really shined and the FFS is proud to claim her as a member! The "Donor Siblings" special session, featuring Wendy Kramer, Alexis Walker, Yvette Perry, and Ingrid Connidis, was beneficial to both academics and practitioners. The presentation helped attendees think about families in new and interesting ways.

Megan Haselschwerdt and Russell Toomey, the Students/New Professionals (S/NP) representatives for the section, announced at the FFS annual business meeting that they will be pursuing a formal mentoring program that pairs senior scholars with S/NP FFS members. Please contact one of them if you are interested in serving as a mentor. A mentoring program in the section can help facilitate cohesiveness in the section and give new members the support they need to be successful.

This year's Outstanding Research Proposal Award went to Kaylie Van Kamoin, and the award for the Outstanding Research Paper was awarded to Megan Haselschwerdt. Look for their presentations at the 2011 conference.

Finally, the section is selling cookbooks and hosting another live auction in Orlando to raise money for the Jessie Bernard Awards. *We need you to donate!* Please consider donating an original recipe for the cookbook, as well as an item or service to be auctioned off at the conference. Auction donations can consist of items or services (paper editing, belly dancing lessons, mentoring session, etc.). Contact Lyndal Khaw if you are interested in donating. The section has traditionally been generous in its support for the Jessie Bernard Award fund and I am confident that support will continue in 2011.

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

Access NCFR's website at:
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News from Students and New Professionals

by Andrew Behnke, aobehnke@ncsu.edu

The 2010 NCFR Annual Conference in Minnesota was the start of something amazing for Students and New Professionals (S/NPs). We heard from undergraduates, graduates, and many first-time attendees who said that they really had a great time and felt mentored and appreciated by the greater membership of NCFR. Some pointed to the wild and crazy mixer for students, special events for new members, and special sessions targeting S/NP interests and needs making it just that much better. During the conference we met with many S/NPs to plan even more such sessions and activities for our conference in Florida this year. So look out—fun and learning are just around the corner! If you are an S/NP, we really encourage you to submit a proposal in March and join us in Florida! If you work with S/NPs, please take the time to encourage your newer colleagues and students to submit and take a few moments to show them how it's done.

We also want to announce the beginning of an NCFR S/NP Facebook (look for Ncfr Snps). We would love for all of you to post to it, ask questions of one another, and create a community around our similar goals and passions for families. Hope you friend us real soon! We want to keep our relationships alive all year long. ■

Student Affiliate Awards

2010 Annual Conference

Student affiliate that traveled furthest to attend: University of Connecticut

Most student affiliate members attending: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

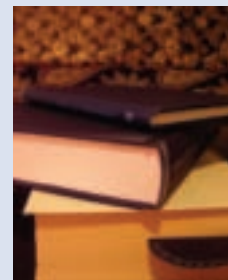
Most student affiliate officers attending: Weber State University

Best overall affiliate display: Weber State University

Most creative affiliate display: University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign

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



Foster Cline, M.D., and Lisa C. Greene (2007). *Parenting Children with Health Issues: Essential Tools, Tips, and Tactics for Raising Kids with Chronic Illness, Medical Conditions, and Special Healthcare Needs*. Golden, CO: Love & Logic Press.

Emily M. Douglas, Ed. (2010). *Innovations in Child and Family Policy: Multidisciplinary Research and Perspectives on Strengthening Children and Their Families*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Frank D. Fincham and Ming Cui, Eds. (2011). *Romantic Relationships in Emerging Adulthood*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Susan Meyerle (2010). *Exploring Strengths in Protestant-Catholic Marriages: A Collective Case Study*. Saarbrücken, Germany: VDM Publishing.

Barbara Resnick, Lisa P. Gwyther, and Karen A. Roberto, Eds. (2011). *Resilience in Aging: Concepts, Research, and Outcomes*. New York: Springer Publishing.

Margaret Ward and Marc Bélanger (2011). *The Family Dynamic: A Canadian Perspective* (5th ed.). Toronto: Nelson Education.

Janice Gauthier Weber, Ph.D., CFLE, CFCS (2010). *Individual and Family Stress and Crises*. Los Angeles: Sage.



Our NCFR family

Bonnie Barber, a developmental psychologist at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia, and her husband David Butler.

You are invited to submit photos for inclusion in the “Our NCFR Family” segments in *NCFR Report*. Requirements and details are outlined below.

- The photo must include an active NCFR member.
- In addition to the member, there must be an additional family member, friend, or pet in the picture. For clarity in a small photo, a maximum of three subjects can be accommodated in the photo.
- Every person/pet must be identified by name and relationship to the member.
- For non-adult subjects, written permission of parents is required if not submitted by a parent.
- Submission of the photo constitutes permission to use the photo in *NCFR Report* and all other NCFR communications media.
- Photos must be submitted as high-resolution color jpg files. Photos used in the Family Focus section will be converted to black and white.
- Offer any additional background that explains the photo (special context, location, timing, etc). You may offer a suggested caption of up to 15 words. Or you may simply submit a sentence or two with explanation or details. NCFR staff will edit or prepare the copy that accompanies this photo, which may not be subject to prior approval.
- Because of space limitations, not all submissions can be included. Submissions, however, will be included in the “Our NCFR Photo Album” online as part of the NCFR website.
- NCFR editorial staff reserve the right to decline acceptance of submissions at their sole discretion. Submit photos as attachments to Charlie Cheesebrough or contact him with questions - charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org.

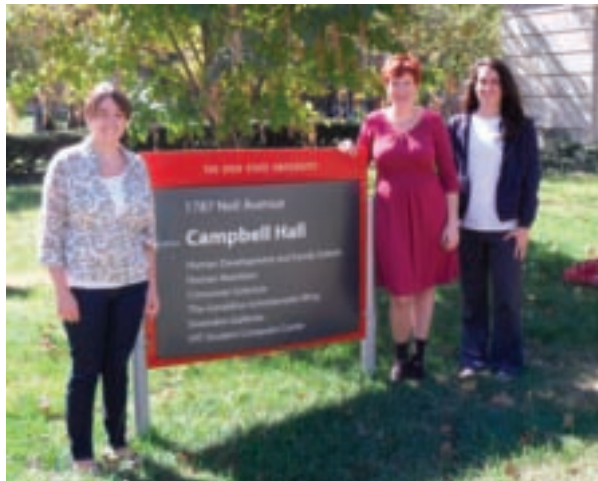
Ohio Affiliate News

by Maureen Blankenmeyer, mblankem@kent.edu



Calling all students, educators, researchers, practitioners, and administrators in the fields of families and aging! The Ohio Council on Family Relations is cosponsoring a conference on April 15, 2011, with the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education and the OSU Doctoral Student Association. The theme is "Advocating for Change: Empowering Older Adults and Their Families." The keynote speaker will be Bill Sundermeyer from AARP. The conference will be held at the Ohio Union on The Ohio State University's campus in Columbus. We hope to see you at the conference!

In other OHCFR news, we recently elected the following people to the executive board: Dr. Audrey Kraynak, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Grace Chen, Board Member; Dr. Joan Jurich, Board Member; Meghan Lee, Graduate Student Board Member; Felicia Lotspeich, Graduate Student Board Member.



Outstanding Ohio NCFR Presenters (from left): Felisha Lotspeich, Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan, and Theresa McCafferty. Above right: OHCFR basket for NCFR conference silent auction.



We also recently presented \$200 awards to the following Outstanding Ohio NCFR Presenters: Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan (Professional Award), Theresa McCafferty (Student Award),

and Felicia Lotspeich (Student Award). Additionally, at the 2010 NCFR conference, OHCFR sponsored a Longaberger basket full of Ohio-made items for the silent auction. ■

Call for papers

***Family Relations* Special Issue: Multi-Ethnicity and Multi-Ethnic Families**

Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies. Ronald M. Sabatelli, Ph.D., Editor; Lindsay Edwards, Editorial Assistant; FamilyRelations@Uconn.edu

The nation's minority population is now more than 100 million, meaning that about one in three U.S. residents is a person of color. This transformation of the nation's population is accompanied by an increase in interracial marriages and an increase in the births of multi-ethnic children. We can assume that the ethnic profiles of the populations of countries around the world are becoming more diverse, as well. For example, based on population estimates, interracial marriages in South Korea rose from 0.2% in 1990 to 8.4% in 2007.

In order to promote a better understanding of how multi-ethnicity influences the development and well-being of children, adults, and families over the life span, *Family Relations* will publish a special issue focusing on "Multi-Ethnicity and Multi-Ethnic Families." This special issue of the journal will be edited by a distinguished constellation of interdisciplinary scholars: Hamilton I. McCubbin, Ph.D., and Laurie D. McCubbin, Ph.D.

(both from Washington State University); Wei Zhang, Ph.D., (University of Hawaii at Manoa); Gena Samuels, Ph.D. (University of Chicago); and Jason Sievers, Ph.D. (Washington State University).

The editors are inviting national and international authors to submit papers for possible inclusion in the special issue. Examples of topics that may be explored in this special issue include, but are not limited to: (a) multi-ethnic child and/or family development; (b) functioning and parenting practices within multi-ethnic families; (c) stress, coping and resilience within multi-ethnic families; (d) core issues confronting multi-ethnic individuals and families (e.g., ethnic identity, enculturation and acculturation, discrimination); and (e) multi-ethnically attuned programs for children, adults, and families across the life span.

**Deadline for paper submissions:
July 1, 2011**

Questions about the special issue or the submission of papers can be directed to

Hamilton McCubbin (hamiltonmccubbin@earthlink.net) or Ron Sabatelli (FamilyRelations@Uconn.edu).

Submission instructions: Complete instructions for preparing and submitting manuscripts online are provided at <http://www.ncfr.org/fr/submit-fr/submission-guidelines>. When submitting your manuscript please upload a cover letter denoting that the paper is being submitted for inclusion in the special issue.

Please follow the appropriate APA 6th edition format when preparing manuscripts for submission. In addition, manuscripts submitted online must be prepared for blind review; this includes all documents uploaded into Scholar One. Manuscripts should not exceed 35 double-spaced pages including references, tables, and figures. A \$25 processing fee is required at the time of submission.

If you need further assistance, please contact the editorial office via e-mail at familyrelations@uconn.edu. ■

in this issue:

**Family Focus on...
Couples**

The 73rd Annual Conference

“Families and the Shifting Economy”

November 16-19, 2011

Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida

www.ncfr.org/conference

If it is true that an economic crisis is like war in that it affects everything it touches, then the arsenal of expertise available to each section and focus group is essential for equipping families to traverse the ebbs and flows of the economic storm. Our theme allows us to highlight the national and international factors that block families' access to health, housing, and employment as well as to examine the consequences for individuals and their relationships.

The Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Dr. Leonor Boulin Johnson, meets in April to finalize the special sessions. Collaboration among sections promises to provide some multi-perspective examinations of topics like family health and policy; family therapy practice among diverse client groups; and the challenges to families in the southeastern United States.

Confirmed presenters

Frank F. Furstenburg, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

**Rebecca M. Blank, Ph.D., U.S. Under Secretary
for Economic Affairs**

Isabel Sawhill, Ph.D., Brookings Institution

Benjamin Karney, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, UCLA

David Williams, Ph.D., Harvard University, School of Public Health

