

In this issue:

Transitioning to Parenthood

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The theme for this issue of *NCFR Report* is “Transitioning to Parenthood.” Our colleagues in research, practice, and family life education share their expertise with us. There are many ways in which families experience this transition: as birth parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, LGBT parents, single parents, stepparents, grandparents raising grandchildren, and parents who used assistive reproductive technologies, to name a few. Enjoy this substantial and diverse collection of articles on becoming a parent.



The 73rd Annual Conference

Families and the Shifting Economy

November 16-19, 2011

Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida

2011 conference highlights

The theme for the 2011 NCFR Annual conference, “Families and the Shifting Economy,” is represented in major presentations about economic stress and its effect on families, health care disparity, balancing the needs of the young and the old, military families, research on the needs of women and children, and much more.

Those are just some of the great sessions set for the annual conference in Orlando, Florida, November 16-19.

Again this year, the best scholars will present leading-edge research, outstanding educators will review successful methods and new topics, and dedicated practitioners will share their expertise in serving families.

The line-up of speakers and topics is impressive:

- Frank Furstenberg, Jr., of the University of Pennsylvania, is our keynote speaker. Economic recession and its effect on families is the focus: “Tough Times: The American Family Under Economic Stress.” This conference-opening plenary is sponsored by the University of Georgia.
- Ben Karney of UCLA will present research on couple intimacy and relationships on Saturday, which will be followed by additional presentations and break-out sessions focusing on military couples. Those sessions will be led by experienced providers and researchers, including our own NCFR members who study or create programs for military families.
- “Intergenerational Equity: Balancing the Needs of Young and Old” is the topic for Isabel Sawhill, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Sponsored by the University of Minnesota.
- Rebecca Blank, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce will present “Creating Policy for Women and Children: The Importance of Measurement.”
- “Beyond Reform: Key Steps to Improve the Health of American Families” is the

title of the session by David Williams, Professor of Public Health and also African and African American Studies, Harvard University.

- Family therapists and faculty Manijeh Daneshpour, Froma Walsh, and Tom Carlson will discuss “On Being Spiritual, Feminist, Academic, and Therapist” in a multi-perspective session sponsored by several NCFR sections.
 - Attorney Shelbi Day will speak on overturning the ban on gay adoption in Florida.
 - Ramona Faith Oswald, University of Illinois and last year’s conference program chair, will present “Teaching Marriage Inequality in the Classroom.”
 - TCRM and the Research and Theory Section are cosponsoring “Poverty and Effects on Children’s Development” by Gary William Evans, Cornell University.
- “How to...” sessions are ideal for Students/New Professionals and others who want an introduction to all that goes with family studies: grant writing; preparing manuscripts for NCFR journals (led by the journal editors); preparing and submitting a conference proposal; building a successful affiliate; getting into graduate school; getting an academic job in a tough economy; finding and creating family-related non-academic jobs; becoming a CFLE; ten tips for publishing.

In addition, a preconference event, “Introductory MAXQDA Training” will be offered by Áine Humble (Jesse Bernard Award winner) on Tuesday, Nov. 15. This workshop is a hands-on introduction to MAXQDA, essential for anyone who wants to work effectively with qualitative data using MAXQDA, a comprehensive research application.

The conference site is the Rosen Centre Hotel on International Drive in Orlando (reduced conference room rate available). Think about staying a few days after the conference! It’s the least crowded period of

conference highlights continued on page 11

Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for the Report:

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

President: Gary L. Bowen

Board Members: Elaine Anderson, Andrew Behnke, Norma Burgess, Jennifer Hardesty, Mary Ann Hollinger, Gary Lee, Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Minnell Tralle

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

Editor, NCFR Report: Nancy Gonzalez

Assistant Editor: Charles Cheesebrough

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Copy Editor: Lisa Hawkins

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

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

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

Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are: Spring issue—deadline December 21, Summer issue—March 21, Fall issue—June 21 and the Winter issue—deadline September 21. Send submissions to: Nancy Gonzalez at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org. For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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NCFR fellows sought

by Shirley Hanson, Chair, NCFR Fellows Committee, hansonshirley@comcast.net

Greetings NCFR members! The Fellows Committee is seeking nominations for the 2011 Fellows Awards. Would you please help us by nominating members who have made significant contributions to the organization and the field? A description of fellow status in NCFR, the Fellows Award criteria for selection to fellow status, and the procedure for submitting nominations follow. The Fellows Committee would greatly appreciate your assistance.

What is fellow status in NCFR?

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few living members of NCFR on the basis of their outstanding contributions to the field of the family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach, or professional service and a record of superior contributions to NCFR. By definition, 'outstanding contributions' are those with broad impact on the field that are enduring over time.

What are the criteria for fellow status?

A. Nominees for fellow status must have made outstanding contributions to the field. Examples of outstanding contributions include, but are not limited to:

1. Published scholarship that has shaped or reshaped the field of family relations.
2. A history of innovation in practice or outreach that has transformed the field.
3. The development and implementation of innovative, novel, or significant interventions or programs designed to

promote healthy family relations.

4. The development and implementation of innovative curricula for training professionals in the area of family science.
5. The development and implementation of innovative social policy relevant to families.
6. Superior contributions to NCFR as an organization.

B. At least 10 years of professional experience after the receipt of the appropriate graduate or professional degree.

C. NCFR membership for at least 5 continuous years at the time of nomination.

What is the procedure for nominations?

- A. Must be nominated by another NCFR member.
- B. Must have the endorsement of three individuals (including the nominator), at least two of whom are NCFR members, who describe the outstanding nature of the nominee's contributions.

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

Meet your new NCFR staff members

Tahera Mamdani

Director of Finance Tahera Mamdani joined NCFR in February. She provides leadership and direction of the finance department, overseeing all accounting and finance functions for NCFR and all related entities and activities, including sections, state chapters, private foundations, and government grants. She also assists with the human resources functions.

Tahera holds a master's degree in public and nonprofit administration and a bachelor's degree in accounting. She has been serving the nonprofit sector for many years in a variety of roles, both professional and volunteer. Her aim is to build the capacity of nonprofits by using effective and efficient business principles and practices.

Brenda Boogren

Office Services Clerk Brenda Boogren joined NCFR in March. Her duties include everything that has to do with mailing or shipping, supplies, and inventory. She also updates addresses and other information in the database and assists in member contact.

Brenda has a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota–Duluth in sociology and is currently taking classes at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota. Her goal is to graduate with a master's degree in divinity with a focus on chaplaincy.

Born and raised on St. Paul's East Side, she has returned to the area after a number of years of living out of state. Brenda has a wonderful, fun-loving, 2-year-old Black Lab named Crash. "And yes, he sometimes lives up to his name!" she says.

Congratulations to the 2011 elected officers

The following NCFR members were elected to serve in the following offices of the National Council on Family Relations beginning in November of 2011.

NCFR Board of Directors

Board President-Elect for 2011–2013

Paul R. Amato, Ph.D., Arnold and Bette Hoffman Professor of Family Sociology and Demography, The Pennsylvania State University



Paul has served NCFR in many areas: Research and Theory Section Chair, Program (Conference) Chair, Reuben Hill Award Committee Chair, Publications Committee, and Deputy Editor for *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Paul's message: "As your President, I would initiate a dialogue between elected officers, board members, NCFR staff, and our membership on four questions: (a) What steps can we take to enhance the quality of our annual conference? (b) What might we do to make NCFR sections more effective and representative? (c) How can we grow our membership, including reaching out to specialists that are unrepresented in our organization, such as demographers, economists, and family professionals in other niches? And (d) How can we better integrate the specialties of all NCFR members, whether researchers, practitioners or students, to honor our interdisciplinary mission?"

Board Members-at-Large for 2011–2014

I. Joyce Chang, Ph.D., Professor of Child and Family Development, University of Central Missouri



Joyce has participated in NCFR in the following ways: Taiwan Council on Family Relations; Vice Chair, Feminism and Family Studies Section; Award Chair, Jessie Bernard Award, FF Section; Newsletter Co-editor, FFS Section; member and proposal reviewer, FFS Section; member and proposal reviewer, FH Section; Membership Director, MCFR (Missouri Council on Family Relations); member, EE Section, RT Section, IN Section, Asian American Focus Group, Family/Chronic Illness Focus Group, and Family and Technology Focus Group. Joyce's message: "The essential task of board members is to support NCFR mission thus to promote individual and family well-being. I have been a loyal and active member since 1993 and have served as a board member for various professional organizations. If elected, I will take an active role in maintaining contact

with the membership and reflecting the needs of NCFR members. All voices need to be heard. Individuals do matter. Member attrition and retention issues will be studied. NCFR shall shine brighter and reach a new height."

Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, MSW, Ph.D., CFLE, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and coordinator of the Graduate Program in HDFS at Central Michigan University



Brad is a member of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee; the Feminism and Family Studies Section, and the Research and Theory Section, Editorial Board, *Family Relations*. Brad's message: "NCFR and its members have many strengths on which we can draw to continue building and preparing our professional home for the coming years. A key emphasis of this process, and one on which I would like to focus, is continuing our commitment to better understand and work with the diverse families of today and tomorrow in a way that reflects an inclusive approach. I also would place similar emphasis on reaching out to the diversity of our current and future members in an effort to attract, retain, and invigorate our membership for the challenges and successes ahead."

Carolyn S. Henry, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University



Carolyn has participated in NCFR in the following ways: Editorial Board member, *Family Relations*; Reuben Hill Award Committee; Program Chair, Affiliate Councils; Co-chair, Rural Focus Group; Certified Family Life Educator (Oklahoma Certification Coordinator); conference proposal reviewer, Research and Theory Section, Education and Enrichment Section, and Family Science Section; Oklahoma Council on Family Relations—Past President, President-elect, Treasurer, and Awards Committee. Carolyn's message: "NCFR is the premier interdisciplinary organization that integrates theory, research, and professional practice (education, prevention, intervention, policy). Embracing both the traditional strengths and diversity within families around the world provides the opportunity for NCFR as an organization and for individual members to advocate for improved quality of life for families and their members. As Board Member at Large, my goal is to understand the wide range of perspectives of members about the best ways to advance family well-being

through NCFR and advocate ways of building upon the legacy of NCFR to address the families of today and the future."

Affiliate Councils President-Elect for 2011–2013

Rose Allen, M.Ed., Extension Educator, Family Relations, University of Minnesota Extension



Rose is a member of Education and Enrichment Section has served as a Minnesota Council on Family Relations board member, treasurer, and president. Rose's message: "I believe that our network of state, multi-state and student affiliates is essential to achieving NCFR's mission. We provide an important intersection between research, education and practice. As a long-time board member of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations, I am aware of the many benefits affiliates provide and how affiliates can create a bridge between NCFR and affiliate members. I also believe that by strengthening the connections between affiliate councils we can maximize the collective energy and resources of our affiliates. Communication, sharing best practices and collaboration are my goals in running for the position of Affiliate Councils President-Elect."

Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect for 2011–2012

Lyndal Khaw, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Family and Child Studies, Montclair State University



Lyndal's involvement includes current Secretary/Treasurer, Feminism and Family Studies Section; Cindy Winter Scholarship Award Recipient; ad-hoc reviewer for *Journal of Family Theory & Review*; Jessie Bernard Award Review Committee; Jessie Bernard Award Recipient; reviewer for the Feminism and Family Studies Section and Family and Health Section; Best S/NP Poster Award; session presider, NCFR Annual Conference; Conference Organizer, Illinois Student Council for Family Relations Annual Conference; Secretary, Vice-President and President, Illinois Student Council for Family Relations. Lyndal's message: "I am proud to call NCFR my professional home for the last five years and I am delighted to run for this position. As the S/NP Board Representative-Elect, I aim to: (a) increase the visibility of NCFR among undergraduate and graduate students by reaching out to state and local student affiliate chapters of NCFR across the country, (b) maintain

2011 elected officers continued on page 4

a safe and supportive environment for new and current S/NPs to share their concerns and voices, and (c) work closely with the Board to develop and maintain S/NP programs and tools that will allow for effective mentoring, leadership opportunities and networking.”

Annual Conference

Program Chair-Elect for 2011–2012

Judith Fischer, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Texas Tech University

Judith’s participation in NCFR includes NCFR Fellow; editorial board member, *Journal of Marriage and Family*; editorial board member, *Family Relations*; reviewer, Research & Theory Section research proposals; NCFR Nominations Committee; Family Action Section Nominations Committee; TCRM. Judith’s message: “How do family professionals understand the well-being of family members who are children and adolescents? For the 2013 conference, I would like to bring together all of us (researchers, practitioners and program evaluators, policy makers, community members, etc.) to examine the well-being of child and adolescent family members. The multidimensional concept of well-being is associated with individual characteristics, family and social contexts, political



and historical contexts, and their interactions. The conference should empower and inform participants to take the next steps to better understand and enhance the well-being of children and adolescents, and, in turn, their families and communities.”

National Elections Council 2011–2014

April Few-Demo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Human Development, Virginia Tech

Gary W. Peterson, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Family Studies and Social Work, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Section Officers 2011–2013

Family Policy Section

Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; **Kelly D. Davis, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Diana L. Baltimore, Ph.D.**, Student/New Professional Representative

Feminism and Family Studies Section

Libby Balter Blume, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair-Elect; **Janel M. Leone, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Kristen Benson, Ph.D., CFLE**, and **Kimberly A. Crossman, MS**, Student/New Professional Representative

International Section

Angela R. Wiley, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; **Chih-Yuan Steven Lee, Ph.D.**; Secretary/Treasurer; **Jaerim Lee, Ph.D., CFLE**, Student/New Professional Representative

Religion and Family Life Section

Loren Marks, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair-Elect; **Chris J. Gonzalez, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Bryce Jorgensen, Ph.D.**, Student/New Professional Representative

Research and Theory Section

Joyce A. Arditti, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; **Sara K. Johnson, M.A., CFLE**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Brian Ogolsky, Ph.D.**, Student/New Professional Representative ■

In Memoriam: Norval Glenn

Norval D. Glenn, professor emeritus of sociology, who taught for 47 years at the University of Texas at Austin, died February 15, 2011, after a two-year battle with myelodysplastic syndrome, a form of blood cancer. He was 77 years old.

A prominent scholar of family sociology, Glenn wrote extensively on marriage and divorce, aging and the life course, and methods and survey data analysis. In 2008, he codirected the first nationally representative sample survey of 750 children of divorce, which provided a substantial body of research on the psychological effects of divorce in children and young people.

“The Sociology Department mourns the passing of Norval Glenn,” said Christine Williams, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology. “You could not find a person who was more committed to the advancement of social science. To me, he will always represent the core academic values of integrity, research excellence, collegiality, and civic engagement. We will miss him dearly.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in social science from New Mexico State University, Glenn served in the Army for 4 years. He then earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. He taught at Miami University and the University of Illinois until 1964. That year he returned to the University of Texas, where he was an affiliate of the Population Research Center and held the Ashbel Smith Professorship from 1984 until his retirement in 2011. He was also the Stiles Professor in American Studies from 1991 to 2011.

Born in 1933 at the Glenn Ranch in Lea County, New Mexico, Glenn was known for his kind, considerate manner and his steadfast devotion to his students and colleagues.

“Although we anticipated this day would come, losing Norval still stings,” said Mark Regnerus,

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On the bookshelf

On the Bookshelf is a news column intended to build community by letting colleagues know about new books by fellow members. Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by NCFR.

To submit your book for consideration in the next *On the Bookshelf* column, at least one author must be an NCFR member and the announcement will be published once. Send your submission in the exact format of these listings to nancygonzalez@ncfr.org
Martin Bloom and Preston A. Britner (2012). *Client-Centered Evaluation: New Models for Helping Professionals*. Boston: Pearson Education/Allyn & Bacon.

Stacy and Brian Burd, Sue and Dean Liming, Kerry Stutzman and Dave Skudneski, and Jerilyn and Greg R. Thiel (2007). *Preventative Maintenance for Your Marriage: The Owner’s Manual for a Couples Group*. Bloomington, IN: Ketch Publishing.

Stephen F. Duncan and H. Wallace Goddard (2011). *Family Life Education: Principles and Practices for Effective Outreach* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

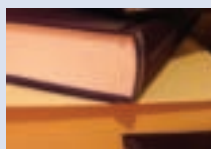
K. M. Galvin, C. L. Bylund, and B. J. Brommel (2012). *Family Communication: Cohesion and Change* (8th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Stephen Gavazzi (2011). *Families with Adolescents*. New York: Springer.

Richard A. Settersten and Barbara E. Ray (2010). *Not Quite Adults: Why 20-Somethings are Choosing a Slower Path to Adulthood, and Why It’s Good for Everyone*. New York: Random House/Bantam.

Aysan Sever and Jan Trost, Eds. (2011). *Skeletons in the Closet: A Sociological Analysis of Family Conflicts*. Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfried Laurier University Press.

Robbyn Wacker and Karen A. Roberto (2011). *Aging Social Policies: An International Perspective*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.





Waving the NCFR flag

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

Let me begin by noting that NCFR does not have a flag. However, we may want to think about designing one. As president, I sure get a lot of opportunities to wave it, at least metaphorically.

In late February, I was invited to the University of Georgia, Department of Child and Family Development (CFD), by Dr. Jay Mancini, department head and Hiltiwaner Distinguished Professor, to speak at the CFD new graduate student visitation. The invitation was a great opportunity to talk with students about NCFR and its importance to one's professional development. Allen Barton, Ph.D., a student in the department and president of the CFD Graduate Student Association, introduced me in an informal discussion session with students. I can definitely see Allen serving on the NCFR Board at some point in his future. During the visit, I also had a chance to meet with some of NCFR's most exemplary members, including Drs. Gene Brody, Leslie Gordon Simons, Chalandra Bryant, K.A.S. Wickrama (Wicks), David Wright, Ted Futris, and Jim Ford, to name a few. A real treat during my visit was visiting the new football training facility at

the University of Georgia. Dr. Ann Sweaney, Interim Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, took me on a full tour of the facilities. Not surprising, I came away from my visit with a UGA hat and t-shirt. Waving the NCFR flag!

In early March, I was invited to give the keynote luncheon presentation at the Southeastern Council on Family Relations 2011 Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. The conference theme was *We Shall Overcome: Changing the Status Quo for Families in the Southeast*. This was a wonderful opportunity to follow up on an introduction and welcome that I had given at the Affiliate Councils Leadership Training Workshop at the 2010 Annual Conference. The title of my presentation was "Affiliates Matter," and the SECFR conference was a testament to that presentation title. Dr. Tommy Phillips, president, Dr. Kim Allen, conference chair, and the SECFR conference planning committee did a fantastic job with the conference program, with an impressive lineup of speakers including Drs. H. Wallace "Wally" Goddard, Rozario Slack, Wayne Flynt, Stephen Duncan, and Kay Pasley. Most impressive were some

of the outstanding student presentations. To note just one was the highly informative presentation by Mallory Lucier, a doctoral student from Auburn University. A student of Professor Francesca Adler-Bader, Mallory presented the results from her meta-analytic study to assess the effectiveness of couple and relationship education for stepfamilies. When I have the opportunity to interact with intellectual and highly capable students like Mallory, it gives me great hope for the field of family studies and for the future of NCFR. Waving the NCFR flag!

In late May, I will be giving a keynote presentation at an international conference hosted by the Korean Home Economics Association and involving four major academic associations in human ecology in Korea. I was invited by Dr. Sun Wha Ok, president of the Korean Home Economics Association and professor, Seoul National University. The theme of the conference is *Families as Social Capital: The Choice for Future Generations*. Importantly, Dr. Soyoung Lee, former NCFR Board member, paved the way for the invitation by introducing me to a group of family scholars from Korea at the 2010 NCFR Conference. I see this invitation as a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about NCFR. Waving the NCFR flag!

Waving the NCFR flag involves more than being invited to make presentations at conferences and special events. As president, I am also involved in asking NCFR members to serve on committees and in special roles. For example, NCFR is currently searching for the next editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Dr. David Demo's term will end on December 31, 2012. It is the Board's role to appoint a committee of five members, with the president appointing the chair from among the five members. At least one member must be a former editor of an NCFR journal. It was my job to contact the nominees that had been identified by the Board.

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Thank you donors

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

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What does good mentoring look like?

by Rodney Cate, first recipient of the Berardo Award for Mentoring, rcate@ag.arizona.edu



When Nancy Gonzalez asked me to write this piece, I thought, “I’m not sure I can put into words what I know about mentoring.” I suspect that most mentors do not spend much time thinking about how to be a “good mentor.” I think “good mentoring” is much like establishing a “good relationship.” On the other hand, there are undoubtedly certain attributes that characterize a good mentor–mentee relationship. However, each mentoring relationship has its own distinctive features, just like any other personal relationship. Despite this caveat, I can offer some suggestions for the process of selecting a mentor in the academic research context (i.e., the faculty–graduate student mentoring relationship). My suggestions are organized in a series of questions suggested by Nancy Gonzalez.

What can I expect from a mentor?

Before selecting a mentor, one must have realistic expectations about what a mentor can and should provide a mentee. A good mentor will be well-versed in the graduate program you are pursuing. Of course, this does not mean that you are absolved from knowing the program requirements on your own. Avoid asking questions of the mentor that can be answered by a little legwork on your part.

A successful mentor should have good communication skills. In order to ascertain this, mentees should observe potential mentors in as many interactive situations as possible. For example, go to social functions and observe potential mentors interacting with others. If invited, attend meetings where faculty will be present.

Mentees must be willing to hear both the good and the bad from a mentor. A mentor who is unwilling to provide honest feedback to a mentee is probably best avoided. However, mentees cannot be defensive when receiving feedback from a mentor. The mentoring relationship can deteriorate rapidly when this occurs.

Good mentors will help their mentees “network.” Meeting other people in the profession can greatly enhance job opportunities. A mentee can find this out by asking other mentees about the mentor’s willingness to help in the networking process. Do not expect a mentor to have all the right answers. Unfortunately, some mentors believe they do have all of the right answers. Beware of

this type of mentor. For example, if you are interested in a career focused on teaching, but an advisor believes that the only successful career is in research, you should look elsewhere for a mentor. A mentor’s responsibility is to assist you, the mentee, in reaching your career goals. A good mentor will not make up your mind for you. Only you know all of your goals and aspirations. So, you are the one to make final decisions.

How do I identify a potential mentor?

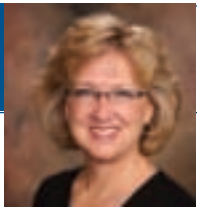
- Find out potential mentors’ areas of interest. Do not hesitate to ask for faculty members’ vitae. Departmental offices will often have summaries of faculty interests. Don’t be afraid to ask for such information.
- Ask other graduate students to identify successful faculty mentors. However, do not let this be the only factor involved in pursuing a particular potential mentor. One never knows when a particular combination of mentor and mentee will be quite successful.
- Observe potential mentors as they interact with other students. This will provide hints about how mentors relate to their mentees. Mentors who avoid interacting with students should probably be avoided.
- Find out how successful the potential mentors’ mentees have been. Indicators of success are publications in journals and ability to get jobs.
- Ascertain whether mentors acknowledge the contributions of their mentees to their research or scholarly work. This can be determined by looking at the mentors’ publications. Acknowledgement of students’ contributions can be seen through joint authorship of publications.
- Determine if potential mentors are active in their professional associations. Such mentors can help you “network.” This can positively impact job prospects and other opportunities.
- Find out how visible potential mentors are in your field of study. One way to determine visibility in the field is through a citation analysis. Citation analyses partially determine the scholarly contributions of potential mentors. These analyses can be performed using the Social Science Citation Index, which is available online at many universities.

- Finally, and probably most important, trust your gut feelings. If you feel that the fit between mentee and mentor is not good, then it’s probably not. Of course, the assessment of fit must come after considerable information is gathered.

What do mentors look for in a mentee?

- The most important quality of a mentee is a willingness to be mentored. This involves being open to feedback and coaching. For whatever reason, some mentees believe that they do not need much mentoring. This situation usually results in a mentee moving from one mentor to another, which can result in a delay of the mentee completing the program of study.
- Mentors prefer mentees who take initiative. For example, when meeting with a potential mentor, come to the meeting prepared with your ideas about what research or scholarly endeavor you are interested in working on.
- Mentors appreciate honesty from potential mentees. Do not feign interest in a mentor’s work when none is there. Your lack of knowledge will eventually be discovered.
- Mentors prefer mentees who maintain frequent contact. However, this does not necessarily mean frequent face-to-face meetings. You can easily keep a mentor updated about your progress through the use of e-mail. Or it is relatively easy to pose a question to the mentor by e-mail. A cautionary note: You should make sure that a mentor is willing to communicate in this manner.
- The successful mentor–mentee relationship can greatly augment the graduate academic experience. More importantly, a successful career is often greatly enhanced by a fruitful mentoring experience. The mentoring relationship often translates into a collegial and/or personal relationship that continues to provide benefits to both the mentee and mentor.

I can personally attest to the benefits of my experience as a mentee of Ted Huston. Our relationship over the last 36 years has enhanced my life in many ways. Thank you, Ted! ■



Labor and childbirth story alert!

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

I delivered 13 days early by an emergency caesarian after 17 hours of labor. The triggering event for the early labor was moving a sofa sleeper from a second floor den to the first floor, out the door, across the street, and up into an attic storage area belonging to our neighbor. This was followed by assembling the crib and stowing away all the neatly folded newborn clothing. The conversion from den to nursery completed, we went to

bed. At 1 a.m., I awoke. My water had broken and I was in labor. The labor pains were three minutes apart from start to finish – and did I mention that it was 17 hours?

Every transition to parenthood is different. My husband and I experienced intellectual and emotional processes that were seldom on the same trajectory. When we finally decided to have a child I was deeply involved in my



Diane...making the deal

career and looking for new challenges. After several interviews, the job offer of my dreams came while I was in the hospital, the day after Michael's birth. The juxtaposition of work and family was captured in a photo of the new mother lying in the hospital bed with the baby along her side. Mom has the phone to her ear and pen and paper in hand. Few would know that I was negotiating a job offer.

When Michael was 11 weeks old I returned to work – to a new job, a new employer, a new city and a new baby. Navigating all those changes was stressful and no doubt a compounding factor that extended the transition to parenthood. It was eased to some degree by an onsite childcare center and flexible work arrangements. I am an avid supporter of “family-friendly” benefits.

Michael is now 21 and in his final year of undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota. In March he finished his college swimming career, topping off 17 years in the pool with a Big Ten record in the 50 freestyle. Charlie Cheesebrough, whose daughter played softball at the University of St. Thomas, and I agreed that the end of a child's collegiate athletic career presents unique challenges of transition — for the parents. I sat silently in the bleachers for several minutes after that final NCAA relay, as did Charlie after that last softball game, also an NCAA playoff. Then slowly, after a time, I got up and moved on – to the next stage.

Childbirth was my transition to parenthood. However, as we know, there are numerous ways in which people become parents: via adoption, foster care, kinship care, assistive reproductive technologies and more. Enjoy this issue of *NCFR Report* which explores many ways to become a parent.

Have a great summer! ■

president's report continued from page 5

Of course, the first thing that you notice is that everyone on the list probably already has a full plate of responsibilities and commitments. What makes waving the NCFR flag so special is when you send an e-mail and get a response like I did from one of NCFR's most notable and influential members, Dr. Alexis Walker, who is an NCFR Fellow, past president, and family scholar extraordinaire: “I would be absolutely delighted to do this, Gary. Thanks so much for asking me.” I would like to suggest this as the model response when I call upon you in the future. Thanks, Alexis—your response made my day. I also appreciate the supportive

response that I received from the other four committee members: Drs. Jay Mancini (chair), Chalandra Bryant, Michael P. Johnson, and Rosemary Blieszner. Waving the NCFR flag!

Well, in conclusion, it might make sense in the future to design an NCFR flag. One thing for certain—the flag is going to need a lot of stars to represent NCFR's membership. Thanks for making NCFR such a great organization and for supporting the work of the Board of Directors. As members, we collectively own the organization, which involves both benefits and responsibilities.

May peace be with you and your family. ■

Access NCFR's website at:
www.ncfr.org
To reach NCFR
headquarters: info@ncfr.org
To reach specific staff
members:

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Maureen Bourgeois, maureenbourgeois@ncfr.org
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To reach NCFR President
Gary Bowen,
glbowen@email.unc.edu



NCFR requests CFLE online modules

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

cfle

NCFR is asking for member involvement in meeting the needs of CFLEs who are looking for continuing education opportunities relevant to the 10 family life education content areas and for family professionals wanting to strengthen their knowledge in the field. We're looking for webinars and online modules focused on the family life education content areas. While they wouldn't be designed with the CFLE exam specifically in mind, they could also be helpful to anyone wanting to strengthen their knowledge in a particular content area.

We currently post information on workshops and trainings approved for CFLE continuing education credit, but we'd like to take it a step further. We'd like to host a section on the NCFR website where people could find information on webinars and online trainings as well. NCFR member and CFLE **Deborah**

Bailey and I have developed a continuing education approval submission process similar to the CFLE CEU application process, but focused specifically on webinars and online modules. We've put together a team of reviewers who will evaluate each submission. Approved offerings will be posted on the NCFR website under each of the 10 content areas. NCFR approval will not imply endorsement of the activity but simply that the module or webinar includes CFLE-relevant content.

While there may be existing offerings that are relevant to specific content areas, we're looking for webinars and online modules that are fairly comprehensive and specifically focused on the topics included in the CFLE content outline. Therefore, it might be something that needs to be created specifically for the NCFR clearinghouse. Certainly a webinar or module would not cover a content area as

thoroughly as a college course, but it could serve as a helpful overview or refresher. We're also looking for offerings focused on specific aspects of a content area, e.g., a module or webinar dealing specifically with families and stress or on parenting adolescents.

Approved offerings would be listed and linked to the NCFR website but accessed through the organization sponsoring the training. NCFR will simply provide a way for people to find out about these learning opportunities. NCFR will charge a fee to have a meeting reviewed and, if approved, posted on the NCFR website, but all costs for attending the training will be paid to the provider.

We think the development of CFLE-related online modules and webinars will meet an important need. NCFR members are best

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NCFR announces Family Life Education Month contest

This year marked the first official "Family Life Education Month" celebration in February; NCFR has been encouraging CFLEs and NCFR members to promote February as Family Life Education Month. NCFR member and CFLE Tammy Whitten helped launch the effort at the CFLE 25th Anniversary last November by distributing the FLE Proclamation and sharing ideas for how to promote the event.

Several CFLEs took her suggestions to heart and organized their own efforts. Jerry Cook wrote an article that appeared in *Raising CEO Kids* newsletter (<http://raisingceokids.com/happy-family-life-education-month/>). Gladys Hildreth, Ph.D., CFLE, and Julie Leventhal helped organize a special FLE Month celebration at the University of North Texas Parent Education Conference. The governor of Texas wrote a special proclamation that was read at the opening event. In addition, a number of newspapers carried articles. Julie went on to present a roundtable at the Texas Council on Family Relations conference so that others could benefit from their experiences.

In an attempt to take these efforts further, NCFR is launching a Family Life Education Month contest. A number of years ago we held a contest to create a slogan and poster for family life education. The resulting *Family Life Education, Teaching Families, Changing Lives* poster, designed by Samford University students, has been a great tool for promoting family life education overall. The success of that contest has inspired us to launch a similar effort for the promotion of Family Life Education Month.

The focus of the FLE Month contest will be to develop promotional messages and materials. All entries must include the following items:

- Family Life Education Fact Sheet
- Tag line or slogan for Family life Education
- Design for poster/flyer promoting February as Family Life Education Month
- List of suggested activities for promoting FLE month

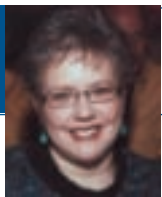
- Press kit including a sample press release and a sample newspaper article

The FLE Month Contest can be a great activity for a family studies class or as a student affiliate project, but we want all members to participate. Therefore, NCFR will award prizes in the following categories:

- Best Student Affiliate entry
- Best State/Regional Affiliate entry
- Best Student Project (created by students in a family course)
- Best Family Life Educator or Organization entry

In addition to bragging rights, a variety of prizes including cash, NCFR membership, or NCFR conference registration will be awarded.

Submission deadline is **October 17, 2011**. All winning entries will be on display at the NCFR conference in Orlando in November. Please check out the **News** section of the NCFR website for more information on the FLE Month contest. ■



Motherhood: Bless me, for I have sinned

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

This issue of *NCFR Report* covers aspects of transitioning to parenthood. I've been there. What is often left out of this discussion is that there are constant transitions in parenthood, a new test for each age and stage. This story is about an event in parenting a teenager and negotiating ethical dilemmas. Did I do the right thing? You be the judge.

Every mother has had parenting moments she's not proud of. Usually it involves a time

start with. Worse yet, the way the dining room table was configured, we were trapped against a wall. There was no way to get up from the table without crawling over two other couples. We were beginning to feel like caged animals.

Finally, after a seemingly interminable length of time, the host and hostess indicated that we were finished and the crowd broke up with laughter and good cheer. "Finally," we thought, "We can get out of here." It was almost 11 p.m.

was a roomful of card tables assembled with a deck of cards on each one. The hostess announced joyfully, "We're going to play whist!" We couldn't believe our ears. In case you haven't been reading Jane Austen lately, whist is a card game that was popular in Edwardian times (and may be still, for all I know). In terms of pastimes, card-playing is number 763 on our list of things we'd like to do. We'd rather clean the garage, bathe the dog or pass a gallstone. It was just too dreadful to imagine.

We tried every excuse we could. "We don't know how to play whist," which was true. That was met with a "we'll teach you!" We countered with an "It's getting late!" That elicited the rejoinder "Nonsense. The night is young!" I glanced at George and the look on his face was exquisite. He looked at me with eyes that pleaded, "Help!" We were not cruel enough to be truthful and embarrass our hostess in front of the other guests.

report from minneapolis continued on page 10

I decided that if I were hostess of a party that had turned into a nightmare for a couple of my guests, I would wish they would manufacture some face-saving pretext to skedaddle, too, and rescue me from myself.

she meted out the wrong discipline or that which was too harsh. A few years ago, when my son was in high school, I did something awful. It was insincere, cowardly and downright deceitful. I'd like to own up to it now and thereby hope that someone will grant me some sort of absolution. But God help me, I think I'd still do the same thing today.

My husband George and I were invited to a dinner party. To protect the innocent, and for obvious reasons, I will alter all of the identifying circumstances. This gathering was one of those events we had to attend—no getting out of it—but thankfully it was one of those obligations that would not repeat itself. Driving to the soiree, we bemoaned the fact that living in civilized society requires this kind of thing, but we resolved to make the best of it.

The dinner was delicious, actually. It was served in several courses. The conversation of the eight or so couples assembled wasn't as scintillating as the Algonquin Roundtable, but it was pleasant enough. As dessert was served, I began to mentally flog myself for dreading the event and thought that, despite my worries, it hadn't been so bad at all. But very soon, this get-together turned into something fit for a Stephen King novel.

After dessert, the attendees remained assembled around the table at least 45 minutes. After about 20 minutes, George and I exchanged frequent glances. My husband is not a party person to

We had been seated at that table for four hours! Then the hostess's voice brightened, and she said she had a surprise for us. She waved us toward her living room.

George and I approached the room with curiosity. We got to the door and there, to our horror,

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qualified to create these learning opportunities and NCFR is the perfect vehicle for promotion. Contact me at the address above to learn more. Let's work together to meet the needs of family professionals. ■

Certified Family Life Educators

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

Alabama

Tiffany Stoudemire
Rebekah Upchurch

Arkansas

Ashley Winberry

California

Laurie Kleefeld
Arlene Penick

Indiana

Michelle Leahy

Iowa

Carly Hewitt
Heather Waters

Michigan

Charlie Ford, Jr
Michelle Gleed
Kelley James-Jura
Michael Owens

Montana

Lukas Stevens

New York

Mary Boerjan

North Carolina

Sherée Harper

Ohio

Emily Fry
Alexis Liebenthal
Emily Mills
Kimberly Temple
Hayley Woloschuk

Pennsylvania

Ashley Yaworsky

Texas

Janice Graczyk

Utah

Cari Shakespear

Washington

Tracy Wise

Approved
10/01/2010-12/31/2010

Maryland

Sarah Stevens FULL

I needed a plan—and fast. Then inspiration hit me.

I asked where their powder room was and excused myself. I grabbed my purse and beat it to the bathroom. I whipped out my cell phone and called for rescue. I phoned our son at home. “Eric,” I said softly. “I don’t have time to explain now—listen carefully. Dad and I are at a party. We are bored out of our minds. We need an excuse to get out of here and not hurt anyone’s feelings. I will pay you \$20 to call my cell phone in five minutes so I can pretend we’re needed at home. Please! I’m desperate.” Our son broke out in peals of laughter. He was willing to sell himself out for a “wallet photo” of Andrew Jackson. That’s m’ boy!

Now back to the living room. I whispered to George that salvation was at hand and to play along. Right on schedule, my phone rang. I answered, “Hello!” Eric said, “Don’t forget; you owe me 20 bucks,” and then he hung up. I kept talking with a performance that would earn me an Oscar. I feigned a concerned look and said, “Okay. We’ll be home right away.” An excuse was offered, apologies were given and we were soon in the car. I believe that my husband was never more in love with me than at that moment.

Now here’s the parenting dilemma. I had just committed a sin. I lied. Not only that, I had

enlisted my son in the deception. My behavior was indefensible. Period. I have pulled this stunt only once in my life. But, heaven help me, I’d do it again under exactly the same circumstances.

Morality has its gray areas. Is it right to tell a wee lie to preserve someone’s feelings? How about if it demonstrates a bad example to one’s child?

The next morning, Eric and I talked over this unusual incident. He clearly absolved me of my guilt and said he understood my motives and that I should forget the whole thing—except the \$20. I got my purse and paid my bill.

When I am faced with a moral quandary, I try to apply the Golden Rule: treat others as I’d like to be treated. I decided that if I were hostess of a party that had turned into a nightmare for

a couple of my guests, I would wish they would manufacture some face-saving pretext to skedaddle, too, and rescue me from myself.

As for Eric, honesty is a value he has grown up with, of course. I didn’t even encourage the Santa Claus thing because I thought it was important that he always hear the truth from me. Did the Dinner Party Rescue leave him with any lasting damage? I wondered.

I just called my son, now a college student. I reminded him of this episode, told him I was writing about it and asked him, “Did this make you think less of me as a mother?”

“No,” he said.

“Thanks, Eric,” I said.

Then I thought to myself, “Now get me the garden hose. I think my pants are on fire.” ■

Erratum: Family Focus Section, Spring 2011 Report

In the article titled “Stress Is Bad for Couples, Right?” a citation was wrong. To access the cited review on the role of stress in close relationships, please see Randall & Bodenmann (2009) in *Clinical Psychology Review*. The citation in the NCFR report (Bodenmann & Randall, 2009) should read Randall & Bodenmann (2009). For any additional information on this article, please contact Ashley Randall (akrandal@email.arizona.edu). The editor regrets this error.

Journal Editor Position

Call for nominations and applications for the position of
Editor of *Journal of Marriage and Family*

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is seeking nominations and applications for the position of Editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family* (JMF). The term of the current editor, David H. Demo (University of North Carolina-Greensboro) will be completed with the publication of the December 2012 issue.

The four-year term of the new editor will begin with the publication of the February 2013 issue. However, editorial responsibilities will begin to transfer to the new editor beginning January 2012. The JMF Search Committee anticipates making the selection of the new editor at the annual NCFR conference in November 2011 in Orlando, Florida.

A detailed description of the editor’s responsibilities may be obtained from: Search Committee for Editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, National Council on Family Relations, 1201 West River Parkway, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 55454. Phone 1-888-781-9331; FAX 763-781-9348; email jeannestrand@ncfr.org.

Nominations and applications including a letter of application and a curriculum vita should be sent to National Council on Family Relations, 1201 West River Parkway, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 55454 or electronically to jeannestrand@ncfr.org. The JMF Search Committee will review application materials beginning August 1, 2011. Nominees and applicants must be members of the National Council on Family Relations.



The 73rd Annual Conference

Families and the Shifting Economy

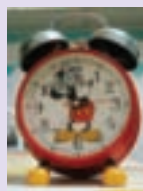
November 16-19, 2011

Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando

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 July 31 (only).



in memoriam continued from page 4

associate professor of sociology and affiliate of the Population Research Center. "In addition to all the professional accolades and acumen, he was a gentle, generous, and humble man. His research on the family, which many of us deeply respected, stayed above the fray of politics and personalities. Our department leaned on him often because he was trusted. He collaborated with so many students and scholars, not because he loved seeing his name in print but because the subject matter was so dear to him and their own development a priority for him. For all these reasons, he will be sorely missed."

Throughout his career, Glenn received several teaching awards, including an Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award in 1993 and the Silver Spurs Centennial Teaching Fellowship in 2003. He also earned numerous awards for his meticulous research in social science, including the Texas Council on Family Relations 2004 Moore-Bowman Award for outstanding achievement in the field of family relations and the Warren E. Miller Award for Meritorious Service to the Social Sciences from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research in 2007.

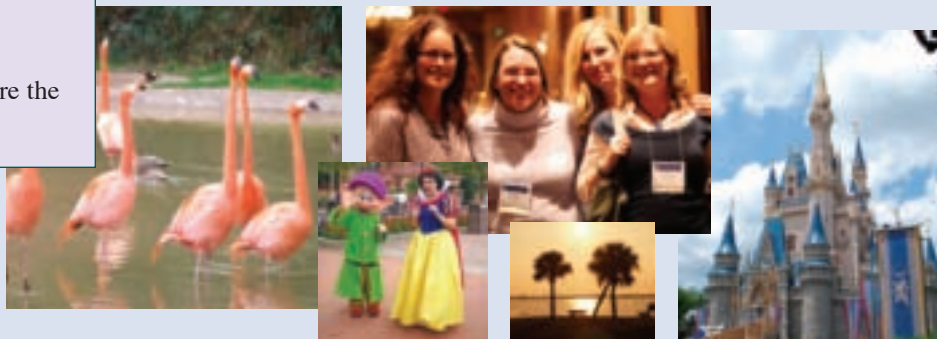
Among his many professional accomplishments, Glenn was editor of *Contemporary Sociology* from 1978 to 1980 and the *Journal of Family Issues* from 1985 to 1989. He also served on editorial boards of numerous other academic journals, including *Social Science Quarterly*, *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Journal of Family Issues*, and *Social Science Research*.

He is survived by his wife, Grace Glenn, and stepson, Erik Schmitt, both of Austin. His family asks that we donate blood or platelets at our local blood bank to help repay the many transfusions he received in his battle with bone marrow cancer. For more information, contact Jessica Sinn, College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin, 512-471-2404. ■

conference highlights continued from page 1

the year at theme parks, and the November average daytime high temperature is 78 degrees.

To give you some time to see the sights, concurrent sessions end at 4:30pm on Thursday, and the closing plenary on Saturday, 11:15am-1pm, is the last session of the day except for those registered for the free post-conference workshop on military couples (1:30-4:30, lunch included).



Student Aide Program

Sign up to volunteer for a four- to five-hour shift as a student aide at the conference and you pay \$45, about one-half the regular student registration fee. You must be an NCFR student member. Students typically assist with event set-up, registration, exhibit booth staffing, hospitality room staffing, distributing materials, and assisting speakers. You must apply as a student aide first, then you may register for the conference using the reduced-price option and also complete the room reservation form. See www.ncfr.org/studentaides.

Our location

The Rosen Centre Hotel is on International Drive, an eating/shopping/entertainment extravaganza bounded by outlet malls on each end.

Within walking distance of the hotel, you'll find restaurants (from fast food to fine dining) and nightlife galore. The recommendation from the NCFR staff is B.B. King's Blues Club & Grill...the music starts early; outstanding pulled pork and deep-fried dill pickles. An inexpensive shuttle bus runs the length of International Drive, also.

Close to the magic

You have easy access to all of Central Florida's attractions—Walt Disney World is 15 minutes away and Sea World and Universal Studios are closer yet. Plus, either coast is just a little over an hour away by car.

NCFR Report—A member forum

The *NCFR Report* is a quarterly magazine for members designed to encourage member-to-member dialogue, to inform colleagues about our research, and to discuss research applications for practitioners and policy professionals. Through the *NCFR Report*, NCFR also builds our community by reporting on people, events, and organizational news.

Unlike the content of our scholarly journals, the articles in *NCFR Report* have not been peer-reviewed. In the spirit of open debate and academic freedom, *NCFR Report* is a member forum for exchanging ideas. The opinions or findings expressed are those of the author(s), which may or may not represent the official position of NCFR as an organization nor the prevailing scientific consensus on the topic.

Author e-mail addresses are provided to encourage readers to offer comment to writers. Members may access the content of our scholarly journals on-line at www.ncfr.org. To join NCFR, click on our convenient online membership application at www.ncfr.org. Journalists with media inquiries are invited to contact Nancy Gonzalez at 763-231-2887 or via e-mail at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org for information on our scholarly research.

News from the Family and Health Section

by B. Jan McCulloch, Chair, jmccullo@umn.edu

As I prepare our news for the June *NCFR Report*, we are in the midst of reviewing submissions for the annual conference in Orlando. I want to take a moment to thank all of you who graciously agreed to assist with our review process. It is always a rush to get reviews done in a timely way; that is, completed and judgments made in time for the 2011 Program Committee Meeting in April. The

saying, “I couldn’t have done it without you,” has never been more sincere. Your service to our section is greatly appreciated.

I want to encourage all section members to consider submitting papers for our awards this year. We have two Family and Health Section awards: a Student Paper Award and a Professional Paper Award. The selection committee

is chaired by Section Chair-Elect Elise Radina. Papers are peer reviewed by members of our section. Here are the criteria:

- Papers should not exceed 15 pages, including graphs, figures, and reference list.
- Papers can be published, but should be current (published within the last year).
- If not first author, a statement by first author validating applicant’s contribution.
- Due no later than October 1, 2011

The winners will be notified by November 1, with awards presented at the Family and Health Section business meeting at the NCFR Annual Conference in Orlando.

In closing, I am in the process of collaborating with other sections to sponsor timely and exceptional special sessions for the annual conference. I will have final details in a short while and will include for your information more about these sessions. Many of you offered suggestions for Family and Health Special Sessions and I have saved these to move ahead with for our 2012 annual meeting when our conference theme will be Families and Health.

Enjoy a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you in November. ■

research and theory continued on page 13

Research and Theory Section News

by Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, shelley@purdue.edu

Greetings from the Research and Theory section! I’ve just received the news that conference submissions to our section—and to the conference overall—are up noticeably from last year. This is the fourth year in a row that submissions have increased, and that speaks very well to the health of our organization!

In a piece of “old business” from the 2010 conference, I am very pleased to announce that Anna Solmeyer was selected as the winner of the best student-led submission to the Research and Theory section. Anna’s symposium was titled, “Sibling-Focused Prevention Programs

for Children and Adolescents.” Anna’s principal advisor is Susan McHale.

I’d like to 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.

Feminism and Family Studies Section News

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

Preparations and planning for the 2011 annual conference, “Families and the Shifting Economy,” are underway and the program looks exciting! The FF section is sponsoring several special sessions this year, including Shelbi Day speaking about her role in overturning the ban on gay adoption in the state of Florida (Abbie Goldberg is the discussant); Manijeh Daneshpour and Froma Walsh’s session regarding the integration of personal values and identities with professional practice; and Ramona Faith Oswald’s workshop on teaching marriage equality in the classroom.

In other section news, Megan Haselschwerdt and Russell Toomey, the S/NP representatives for the section, are developing a formal mentoring program that pairs senior FF section scholars with S/NP FF section members. Please consider serving as a mentor! We are also creating and selling cookbooks with recipes submitted by section members and hosting a live auction to raise money for the Jessie Bernard Award fund. We need you to donate!

Please consider donating an original recipe for the cookbook and/or an item or service for the live auction. Contact Lyndal Khaw (khaw@illinois.edu) if you are interested.

As my tenure serving in the role of section chair for the FF section comes to an end this year, I think back to all I have learned in this position. Before I began serving as a section chair, I had no idea what I was getting myself into as the chair! Conference planning requires a great deal of time and energy and one must be passionate about the work or the results could be disastrous. Lucky for me, I had two fabulous mentors (thank you, Áine and Ramona!) and a supportive team of hardworking section officers (thank you Liz, Dana, Lyndal, Megan, and Russell!). If it hadn’t been for the people around me, there is no way I could have handled this position! Anyway, I digress.

Serving as the chair has allowed me an insider’s view of the energy, collegiality, and generosity of the FF section membership. This section

has spunk! You may be thinking “spunk?” but let me tell you, spunk is what makes this section so strong! The members not only care about the section and work hard to support it, they live and breathe the notion of integrating feminist scholarship and perspectives into theory, research, and applied work with families.

The section is also extremely generous. The FF members sincerely care about the trajectory for the section and it shows when the call for assistance goes out. Quite frankly, the generosity of the section is amazing and I wasn’t able to really appreciate it until I took on a leadership role. I want to thank all of the members for supporting me and the other section officers and trusting us to make decisions that affect the section. I have enjoyed serving as a section chair and I look forward to continuing this service as a past chair. It is quite an honor to be a part of such passionate group of individuals.

See you in Orlando! ■

Growing a social network that works for you

by Marissa Stone, M.S., CFLE, hmstone@uga.edu

We have all heard about the importance of networking since we attended our first conference. Our professors remind us to, “Network, network, network!” But what exactly is networking, and how do we maintain connections created after the annual conference has come and gone?

According to the *Online Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, *networking* is, “The exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions; *specifically*: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business.”

In other words, networking allows us to develop and maintain personal connections with a diverse group of people in our niche area who may eventually be advantageous to us, our careers, and our futures. Your social network may include past and present classmates, co-workers, bosses, and friends. It should also include colleagues from professional associations, alumni from your university, or acquaintances you have met via conferences or online networking services. Your network may also include family, neighbors, or anyone else who might have a connection that could potentially lead to a career.

In fact, the old saying, “It’s all about who you know,” has proven true for most career-seekers,

including me, on many occasions. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 48% of job-seekers obtain their jobs through referrals. I can attest that networking has afforded me every job I have ever had, because the best impression you can make on a potential employer is a word-of-mouth referral delivered from those who know you and your skill set well. When you and your areas of expertise are known in your field and by those around you, potential employers often choose you for jobs over those who have not invested in the expansion of their professional social circle. Why? *Because they feel like they know you and their colleagues know you.*

But how can networking be maintained once we leave the annual conference and get back to the hustle and bustle of academia? Enter online social networking. Online social networking enables users to remain connected across time and space and it miraculously works with anyone’s schedule. Using Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, Flickr, Tumblr, Delicious, Digg, Skype, Yahoo, etc., we all have the ability to become gurus of sorts in the world of career networking. No longer do you have to be in the same room with a member of your niche community to have a meaningful conversation. Now, those face-to-face connections established at conferences can be

solidified online if you use the available online social networking tools to your advantage.

Start with the social networking platform with which you are most comfortable. Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn are some of the most popular among academics. Here are a few steps to get you started:

1. First, research each application, reading tutorials and watching videos to learn how to use it.
2. Next, create an account in each application if you do not currently have one.
3. Then, develop a profile by adding a picture and a bit of information about your accomplishments, career goals, and aspirations.
4. Make sure to set your privacy settings so you can maintain a secure network of friends and colleagues.
5. Next, you want to find people with common interests and follow or friend them. Make sure to connect with those met at the most recent conferences you have attended.
6. Always take the incentive to connect with others and never feel inferior, even if someone has more education or experience than you.
7. Be proud of your accomplishments and realize that the transfer of information is a two-way street.
8. You may also consider starting a blog and using an RSS feed so that when you post something new it is sent to those interested in your work.
9. Make it a habit to spend a few minutes each day posting something of interest (this can be set on auto-pilot using RSS feeds) and getting involved in the online conversations.

growing a network continued on page 14

Student/New Professionals 2011 election winners

Lyndal Khaw (New Jersey): S/NP Board Representative-Elect, NCFR Board of Directors

Diana L. Baltimore (Iowa): S/NP Representative, Family Policy Section

Kristen Benson, CFLE (North Dakota): S/NP Representative, Feminism & Family Studies Section

Kimberly A. Crossman (Illinois): S/NP Representative, Feminism & Family Studies Section

Jaerim Lee, CFLE (South Korea): S/NP Representative, International Section

Bryce Jorgensen (North Dakota): S/NP Representative, Religion & Family Life Section

Brian Ogolsky (Maryland): S/NP Representative, Research & Theory Section

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Be sure to designate that on your check. All the future award winners thank you!

An innovation at last year’s conference was that I asked members of the section or the executive committee to attend all sessions sponsored by the section and to report back to me regarding the quality of the sessions. I did this as “due diligence” regarding the quality of the conference, something that is very important in the post-conference evaluations you all submit. I’m pleased to report that almost

all the sessions were rated as being of very high quality. There were a couple of exceptions where presenters seemed under-prepared, did not manage time well, or focused too much on “marketing” their own work as opposed to engaging in scholarly discourse with the literature. I hope you will keep this information in mind as you prepare your presentations for 2011. In the meantime, please feel free to email me any time (shelley@purdue.edu). In the meantime, have a wonderful summer! ■

Religion and Family Life News

by Joe Wilmoth,
jwilmoth@humansci.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, please e-mail 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 at the address above. ■

Illinois Conference Summary

by Jill Bowers, President and 2011 Conference Chair; Laura Smart, Past President; and Mikki Meadows, President-Elect



The Illinois Council on Family Relations (ILCFR) held a successful annual conference on Friday, April 8, in Champaign, Illinois. The theme of the conference was “Violence Across the Lifespan: Implications for Practice and Policy.” The conference was a one-day event that began with a keynote address by Dr. Laura McCloskey from the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who spoke on gender-based violence across the lifespan. There were several break-out sessions throughout the day covering a wide variety of issues relating to violence (e.g., childhood sexual abuse, divorce, and intimate partner violence). Each of the sessions contained a message that related to the conference goals, which were (a) to synthesize research, theory, and practice related to violence across the lifespan and (b) to debunk existing myths about violence.

Attendees and presenters included family life researchers (professionals and students from academic and government institutions) and practitioners (e.g., domestic violence shelter staff and executives, members of the Illinois Coalition against Domestic Violence Board, and family therapists) from across the state.

The conference ended with a summary led by Dr. Elizabeth Powers from Family Impact Seminars and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. During the conference summary session, attendees discussed what they had learned throughout the day in relation to the conference goals. Domestic violence service providers who work with victims of intimate partner violence believe there is a need for more research on ways to help shelters deal with co-morbidity (e.g., when survivors need help for immigration and mental health issues while seeking safety from an abuser).

There was an agreement across all attendees (researchers and practitioners alike) that there are opportunities for meaningful research and better policy when there is some input from practitioners in the field.

While the conference theme was violence in general, many of the presentations focused on different aspects of intimate partner violence (IPV). An issue discussed during the conference closing session with Dr. Powers involved the myths that surround IPV and what professionals in Illinois and across the United States could do about them. A few of the researchers and service providers elicited a discussion regarding the consequences of passively communicating about IPV. For example, the group discussed the different implications of asking the question “why doesn’t she leave?” versus “why doesn’t he stop abusing her?”

Based on the conference presentations, recommendations for making distinctions in IPV research were to address sampling and measurement issues by understanding the context in which the violence takes place and distinguishing the type of violence (i.e., through Michael Johnson’s typology). Other recommendations to help debunk myths about violence were to educate those who may not understand the consequences (i.e., policymakers, clergy, law enforcement, and others in the public sector) and to have more collaboration between researchers, service providers, and others who work with or know IPV survivors.

From the conference, ILCFR members learned how abuse across the lifespan intersects at a time when services for individuals across the lifespan—such as teen violence prevention and shelter intervention—are being discontinued. Researchers and practitioners agreed that they need to collaborate to make a compelling case that the cost of doing little or nothing about violence is greater than expenses to prevent and to intervene. The conference highlighted existing efforts demonstrating that many professionals in Illinois are working hard to address these issues already. ■



Jill Bowers,
ILCFR
President, and
Laura Smart,
Past President

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10. Try to make every connection useful, fun, and informative. People will not maintain contact with those who only push their own agenda.
11. Remember this is a two-way interaction, similar to connections created at conferences, so do not forget to interact regularly with others online.
12. Finally, add your social networks to your signature line/business cards for easy access.

Experiment with the various ways to connect with others online. Use the social-networking tools set up for the major conferences you attend (hashtags, Flickr feeds, URLs, etc.) in order to find new people to connect with online. Once those connections are made, you have the opportunity to participate in discussions and learn from the people you meet—and they from you. This sharing of knowledge is one of the most important elements of networking because professionals in the field share knowledge about their experiences that is priceless.

Participate in online chats, real-time conversations, webinars, and Tweet-ups (real time meetings with other Tweeps or Twitter users). Start and maintain dialog with others on subjects that interest you. Post comments on blogs or other sites (always using your social networks in your signature line). Maintain contact with your network regularly, even if it is just a brief tweet or post to say hi and

ask how they are doing. Always remember to help others when the opportunity arises. If someone needs assistance with a task in your area of expertise, offer advice if asked and post something about it on your social networking sites so others learn about your skill set.

Finally, be genuine with your attempts to network in the online arena the same as you are in face-to-face connections and never forget to be grateful. A simple thank you goes a long way with those who help you and appreciation shown is remembered and often rewarded well. Above all, use online networking as another means of legitimately getting to know people in your niche field. Many positive results will naturally follow.

In order to learn more about how we use social media to remain connected, just stop by any of our social media sites and join us! We have created several places for you to network with the NCFR Student/New Professionals outside of conferences. First, you can follow us on twitter at @NCFR_SNP (http://twitter.com/NCFR_SNP). Being a Twitter account holder yields you the opportunity to have “tweets” sent right to your computer or phone so the information comes directly to you in real time. Similarly, you can jump in the conversation taking place on our new NCFR SNPs Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/NCFRSNP>). We look forward to connecting with you in cyberspace! ■

Wisconsin Council on Family Relations

by Jami Kaiser, CFLE, jami@thinkmarriage.org

The joint Wisconsin/International Student Council of Family Relations Conference in Wisconsin Dells on April 8 was a wonderful success! Friends connected, new friendships were made, opportunities were shared and new partnerships were started.

First and foremost in my mind is the overwhelming interest in becoming involved in WICFR that was shown at our first ever membership meeting. The beginnings of a Vision for WICFR began...and needs to be continued with your input. The next step is to gather vision from the rest of the WICFR members throughout the state. A number of current and new members have offered to help investigate the best way in which to gather this information. If you have had a great experience in your past in doing this type of information gathering, and are willing to share your experience, please contact me at jami@thinkmarriage.org. If we don't have to re-invent the wheel, it would be fantastic!

Vision

The group at the membership meeting identified the following as benefits of being part of a state affiliate:

- Access to grant writing training, maybe a workshop at the yearly conference.

- Opportunities to find partnerships to write grants.
 - Opportunity to pour out our knowledge and experience as well as get poured into from our colleague's expertise.
 - Networking
 - Job opportunities, maybe through our own website/blog or a Facebook page
 - An online presence
 - WICFR website (available through NCFR)
 - Content that is membership driven with professionals throughout the state
 - Have a resources page for members to be able to get feedback from group on potential resources for particular situations.
 - In-person meetings (required are the annual conference, a board retreat and two other board meetings-possibly virtual in nature).
 - An incentive to serve on the board, like a discounted fee to the national conference.
 - Be a more effective voice for families in Wisconsin.
 - Have training available for the board members.
- Feel free to contact me first at jami@thinkmarriage.org. ■

New Affiliate Councils Board members

In the 2011 NCFR elections, Rose Allen (Minnesota) was elected as president-elect of the Affiliate Councils Board (ACB), and Deb Cashen (Texas) was elected the ACB Program Chair representing the ACB on the Conference Program Committee. They assume their duties at the end of this year's annual conference. Rose will fill the president-elect position now held by Minnell Tralle (Minnesota), who will begin her two-year term as ACB president. Minnell will succeed Chloe Merrill (Utah), current ACB president. Deb takes the position now held by Joanne Roberts (Texas), who will become chair of the Religion & Families Section at the end of the year.

In addition, Josh Shaw of Weber State University, just elected as the Student Affiliate Representative to the ACB, will assume his office immediately because of a vacancy. He is replacing Angela Rushton, formerly of Stephen F. Austin State University, who resigned due to work conflicts.

Rose Allen is an Extension Educator in Family Relations at the University of Minnesota and past president of MCFR. Deb Cashen is president of the Texas Council on Family Relations. In addition, as president-elect, Rose also serves on the NCFR Board of Directors for two years before taking on the two-year presidency of the ACB. Chloe was the first ACB president to hold the president-elect position (created 5 years ago) and a seat on the NCFR Board before assuming the ACB presidency. The change was a good one, she says, since it allows the president-elect to focus on affiliate issues at the board level without also running the very active affiliates board.

Chloe says that Rose, Deb, and Josh are great additions to the ACB. "As long-time members who have served as affiliate officers, they bring experience and knowledge of the benefits that affiliates provide to members and how the activities in the affiliates can make NCFR stronger." ■



Family Therapy Section News

by Tom Blume, blume@oakland.edu

At the annual conference in Minneapolis, I assumed the role of Chair for 2011–2012 and Jeff Larson retired after two years of incredible service to assume the role of Past Chair. The rest of the leadership team includes Steve Fife, Secretary-Treasurer; Spencer Olmstead, Student/New Professional Representative; and Christi McGeorge, Chair-Elect. We hope to bring you some exciting changes over the next couple of years.

The Student Poster Award for 2010 was won by Christopher Belous for "Effective Treatment of Same Gender Couples Using a Contextual Approach." Paper awards were announced in Minneapolis. Jeff Jackson won the New Professional Paper award for "Premarital Predictors of Marital Outcomes: A Couple Factor Meta-Analysis," and Kendra Holtrip won the Student Paper Award for "Examining Evidence-Based Intervention Development Research in MFT."

The Kathleen Briggs Award has been approved by NCFR and we have received nominations for the first \$200 biennial award to be given in 2011. The award was established in Kathleen's name to honor outstanding marriage and family therapy faculty and/or supervisors for their mentoring of students and new professionals in NCFR. Please contact me if you would like to support this important award.

In Minneapolis, I solicited suggestions for a focus group; more than 20 possible areas of focus were proposed. There was strong support for something related to families on the union dissolution/recoupling/family reconfiguration spectrum. If you are interested in helping to shape the proposed Focus Group, please contact me as soon as possible.

The Orlando conference has drawn record numbers of proposals. The Family Therapy Section has been invited to co-sponsor an exciting special session featuring two family therapists. Dr. Manijeh Daneshpour and Dr. Froma Walsh, titled "Steadying the Tectonic Plates: On Being Spiritual, Feminist, Academic, and Family Professionals."

On Groundhog Day a new NCFR website was unveiled. It offers many new ways in which sections can support their members. We are going to need a large group of volunteers to create, find, edit, and upload content. Here's your chance to make a difference! If you are a supporter of online social networks and are interested in being part of the new web team, please contact me. ■

in this issue:

Family Focus on...
Transitioning to Parenthood

In Memoriam: Catherine Street Chilman

by Mary Jo Czaplewski

Dr. Catherine Street Chilman passed away of natural causes on January 27, 2011, in Collington, Maryland, at age 97. She had been a member of NCFR since 1960. She was an active leader in the Washington Public Policy Committee of NCFR, and in the COFO (Coalition of Family Organizations).

Catherine always encouraged the members of the Policy Committee to think expansively and to push NCFR to consider multiple avenues to engage in policy. She was not afraid to laugh at herself and she was so supportive of and a wonderful role model for the younger female policy committee members.

She was instrumental in planning several sessions of the Family Policy Section for NCFR's annual conferences, and she was a respected researcher, speaker, and writer of many NCFR journal articles. She was elected President of Groves Conference on Marriage and the Family in 1970. She and Margaret

Feldman were close friends and together planned the 1992 Groves Conference on "Family Issues and Federal Social Policies."

A graduate of Oberlin College at age 16, Catherine earned a master's degree in social work in 1938 from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Syracuse University in 1959. Besides a varied and stellar career in federal government and academia, Catherine became a single mother of three daughters when her beloved husband Bill contracted ALS at the age of 34. She supported her family by teaching at Syracuse University while working on her doctorate. She later became a research specialist for the Children's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; during her time there, she published the book, *Growing Up Poor*. She was also dean of faculty and professor of psychology at Hood College, Frederick, Maryland, and later senior research associate and curriculum coordinator in the

School of Social Work and the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan. While there, she co-edited, with Elam Nunnally and Fred Cox, a five-volume series, *Families in Trouble*. Her last professional position was that of professor at the School of Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, from 1972–1989.

She is survived by daughters Margaret Carpenter, Jeanne Klov Dahl, and Catherine Brown, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, a sister, and several nieces and nephews. A service in her memory was held in the spring.

Note

Catherine's autobiography can be found in the book, *Pioneering Paths in the Study of Families: The Lives and Careers of Family Scholars* (Haworth, 2001), by Suzanne Steinmetz and Gary Peterson. Here in her own words is a summation of her life:

I like others, am a product of the interweave of many life strands: genetic, multigenerational family system experiences, my age cohort, and the historical periods through which I have lived. I have been shaped by enormous cultural, and other changes of the 20th century; my own particular life situation at different times; my friendships, my family, and the numerous important resources to which I have had access—financial, educational, cultural, and environmental. I have indeed been fortunate to continue to feel empathy and responsibility toward those who have not been so blessed. I am a card-carrying, un-tied liberal—a dyed-in-the-family humanist forever. In short, before I go, I want to say, "Thank you." ■

Our NCFR family



This time we have a "double" NCFR family! Lis Maurer, CFLE (left), is founder and director of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach & Services at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. Partner Maureen Kelly (right) is a CFLE as well and is vice president for Education & Communications at Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes. This photo was taken on a 2003 trip to Africa as part of a professional international exchange project focusing on sexual/reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.