

## In this issue:



### Open Mic

pages F1 – F16

In this issue of *NCFR Report*, we cover a variety of topics in an “Open Mic” issue. From fatherhood, obesity, and homelessness to managing your online presence and the role of funeral directors in family bereavement, our authors once again provide interesting and valuable insights.

## next issue:

### Families and Spirituality

Deadline for submissions is September 21. For submission requirements, contact the editor at [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org)

## Your conference checklist

- Register by October 8 to avoid late fees
- Sign up for the 5K Fun Walk/Run
- Use the “Schedule Builder” (improved this year) to create your online schedule of sessions and meetings
- Bring your laptop or other device...NCFR will deliver WiFi service in The Gathering Place and other meeting areas (access may sometimes be limited).

For details, follow links at [www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2012](http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2012)

## Conference 2012

# Families and Health

by Leigh Leslie, Ph.D., 2012 Conference Program Chair



Leigh Leslie

I want to invite you all to the 74th Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations, October 31–November 3, in Phoenix, Arizona. As you know by now, the theme of this year’s conference is “Families and Health,” and I am very excited about the stimulating and diverse program we have put together around this theme.

When I selected the theme in 2010, I was apprehensive as to whether it would still be timely in 2012. Little did I know that our country would still be embroiled in heated debate over access to healthcare. Nor did I know how extensively family scholars would be immersing themselves in health-related research. I believe the relevance of this topic is evidenced by three characteristics of this year’s program.

First, we had record numbers of submissions for the program. As a result, the caliber of the selected symposia, papers, and other aspects of the program is extremely high.

Second, in my many decades in NCFR, I don’t remember ever seeing a program where the overwhelming majority of the submissions and accepted sessions were directly about the conference theme. This year’s program takes a multifaceted approach to health, examining topics such as childhood obesity, immigrant health, disparities in women’s health, health of transgendered teens, religion and health, chronic illness, health in the military, and families and autism. And in typical NCFR fashion, basic research, intervention, and policy are all addressed as we look at the intersection of families and health.

Finally, this year’s program boasts more than 25 submitted and invited symposia

I want to invite you all to the 74th Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations, October 31–November 3, in Phoenix, Arizona. As you know by now, the theme of



featuring leading scholars in family science. In recent years, attendee surveys have revealed that symposia organized and submitted by colleagues around a common topic are the most preferred conference format. Thus, I am delighted that so many outstanding scholars doing cutting-edge work in families and health took the time to pull together comprehensive treatments of these topics.

I would like to highlight some aspects of the conference that I am most excited about. First, I think our outstanding plenary speakers will provide state-of-the-science overviews on four of the most pressing health challenges impacting families. Jacqueline Campbell from Johns Hopkins University will speak on the long-term health effects of family violence. Barbara Fiese from the University of Illinois will address the epidemic of childhood obesity, moving from the family factors in the development and treatment of the problem to public policy implications. Brian Smedley from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies will provide an overview of innovative programming at the community level to address health disparities. Finally, Sara Honn Qualls from the University of

*Conference 2012 continued on page 2*

# Report

## of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for the Report:  
*REPORT, the quarterly newsletter of the National Council on Family Relations, provides 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:** Elaine Anderson

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**Assistant Editor:** Charles Cheesebrough

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How to contribute to the NCFR Report: The NCFR Report is member-written. Articles accepted for publication will be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on (1) relevance to the Family Focus theme, or (2) brevity due to space limitations, and (3) how articles form a complementary collection. For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Nancy Gonzalez, at [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto: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](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](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org). For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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## Conference 2012 continued from page 1

Colorado, Colorado Springs, will speak on the challenges families face in caring for aging family members.

Among several outstanding special sessions, I want to call your attention to the panel titled “Family Science and Public Health: Our Shared Future” on Friday afternoon. Faculty members from departments and colleges that have undergone some type of integration of the two disciplines in recent years will discuss the opportunities and challenges these moves present for us in terms of discipline identity, research, and administration.

Finally, there are two related activities that I am excited about and that should be fun and educational, as well as supporting our concern for social justice. I want to encourage all attendees to participate in both the Tuesday evening preconference workshop and the Saturday morning 5K walk/run. On Tuesday evening at 6:30, BorderLinks (<http://www.borderlinks.org>), a nonprofit education and service organization that focuses on the needs and lives of Mexican immigrants, will present “Legal Immigration Simulation: Would You Be In or Out?” This simulation turns participants into potential immigrants navigating the legal system to help answer the commonly encountered question, “Why don’t they just get in line and come over legally?” If you didn’t register for this session when you submitted your conference registration, call the NCFR main office and they will get you registered.

Given the excellent work of BorderLinks, I am delighted that they are the beneficiary of



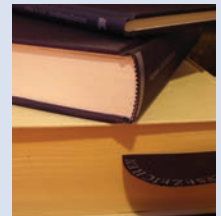
our second event, the “Walk to Phoenix 5K Fun Walk/Run.” I know many of you have been using your pedometers to keep track of your steps between the 2011 and 2012 conferences. Whether you did this or not, you are invited to participate in the culminating Fun Walk/Run on Saturday morning. To provide a contribution to BorderLinks and cover expenses, there will be a small registration fee. Watch the NCFR website for the specifics of registering. If all else fails, bring your running shoes and register onsite.

I would like to thank all the section chairs who worked so hard to put together a stimulating and timely program. I believe they have been successful and you will all enjoy your time in Phoenix, both professionally and socially. A huge thanks also goes out to NCFR staff Cindy Winter, Charlie Cheesebrough, and Judy Schutz. Without their amazing support, the conference simply would not happen.

So I invite you now to take this time to peruse the conference program, make your schedule, and join us in Phoenix for a fantastic 74th NCFR Annual Conference. ■

## 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 this listing to [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org)



Donna Couchenour & Kent Chrisman (2011). *Families, Schools, and Communities: Together for Young Children*. Wadsworth Cengage.

Meg Wilkes Karraker & Janet R. Grochowski (2012). *Families with Futures: Family Studies into the 21st Century*. Second edition. Routledge.

Meg Wilkes Karraker (2013). *Global Families*. Second edition. Sage.

Isolina Ricci (2012). *The Coparenting Toolkit: The Inspiring New Update for “Mom’s House, Dad’s House.”* Available at <http://www.thecoparentingtoolkit.com>





# Communication with our student and new professional NCFR members

by Elaine A. Anderson, Ph.D., NCFR President, [eanders@umd.edu](mailto:eanders@umd.edu)

As I mentioned in my previous report, one of the responsibilities of the NCFR Board is to communicate with NCFR members. Our communication with you is important because not only does this contact allow you to voice your views to us about the profession and the roles that NCFR can fill to help you during your work with families, this invaluable communication also enables the Board to understand better the work of our members. I recently learned the importance of communicating with our newer and often younger members when I had the pleasure in May to travel to Portland, Oregon, to the Northwest Council on Family Relations (NWCFR) meeting. In my almost 40 years as a member of NCFR, this was the first time I attended an affiliate meeting specifically planned for the primary benefit of graduate and undergraduate students in that region. For many of the attendees, this was the first time they had ever attended a professional conference.

I got to talk with the students about the multiple professional and personal benefits one can gain from attending such meetings. We discussed the concept of networking and how that happens at a professional meeting. Further, I got to share with the students several suggestions on how to improve their skills in networking that I hope they can transfer and use not only for future meetings they attend, but for receptions, professional talks, social events, community events, or work meetings where they are required to interact with other professionals.

We practiced several networking strategies and I shared information with them about the multiple sessions at the NCFR Annual Conference where they could use these newly developing skills. I tried to prepare the students for the kinds of sessions offered at professional meetings, what they could expect from these activities, and how best to navigate and take advantage of the sessions

to enhance their own professional development. I also shared with the students that I could have used these skills when I first started attending professional events as a student and new professional. The students informed me that the information was quite useful to them and had begun to ease their anxiety about navigating the affiliate meeting they were attending with about 100 attendees. I am hopeful that our time together started to prepare them for how to manage a much bigger meeting similar to NCFR's annual conference with over 1,100 attendees.

A further benefit for the students who attended this meeting was their participation in a speed-mentoring professional advice activity similar to the ones we conduct at our annual conference. What was particularly exciting for these students was that among the mentors from whom they received professional advice were the two main speakers for the conference—Dr. Karen Seccombe, Portland State University, and Stephanie Coontz, Evergreen State College. Both of these professionals are international authors who write about some of the most cutting-edge issues molding and impacting families. To be able to receive professional advice

from such NCFR luminaries was truly memorable and impactful for the students. Subsequent to the meeting, I have received numerous e-mails from students thanking me for my time with them and also citing their intent to attend our annual meeting.

I share the above information to communicate with you some of the benefits of encouraging your students to attend the affiliate meetings or other similar professional settings. Also, as I hope you can tell, I benefited too from my interactions with the students and believe that you would as well. This was an important reminder to me of the importance of bringing professional opportunities to our students. I look forward to reconnecting with a number of my new acquaintances at the 2012 NCFR Annual Conference in Phoenix.

Additionally, in early June, the NCFR Board met in Minneapolis for three days to discuss the other areas about which we have been communicating with many of you in the past three months—namely policy work, international partnering, and section engagement. We have benefited greatly from hearing about your experiences and thoughts and have compiled your suggestions. The Board is working closely with the staff who will be implementing some of your ideas for increased membership engagement beginning as early as our upcoming annual meeting. For example, you will see several new activities for those with international interests as well as for our international attendees. At the annual conference, Board members will talk further regarding the priority of some of your suggestions during the section meetings.

Leigh Leslie, Program Chair, along with the conference committee members, has planned an enlightening program on health and families. We had a record number of submissions and we hope to have a record number of attendees. On behalf of the Board, we all look forward to seeing you in the fall in Phoenix. ■

### NCFR Report - A member forum

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

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

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



### Our changing NCFR community

by Diane Cushman, Executive Director, [dianecushman@ncfr.org](mailto:dianecushman@ncfr.org)

We lost a treasured member of NCFR on July 8 when Alexis Walker died after a long illness. Alexis was a former NCFR president (1994-1995), conference program chair (1991), and *Journal of Marriage and Family* editor (2002-2007). From the thousands of visits to her CaringBridge website <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/alexiswalker> and memorials in the recent issue of the NCFR Feminism & Family Studies Section's newsletter <http://www.ncfr.org/sections/ff/news/keeping-feminist-family-scholars-informed-and-connected-feminism-and-family-studies>, it is obvious that she touched the hearts and minds of countless mentees and colleagues. One of the most recent honors bestowed upon Dr. Walker was the Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring.

Shortly after Alexis' passing we learned that Jean Bauer had succumbed to cancer on July 23, 2012. Jean was an exceptional leader and mentor in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. Jean led the efforts to develop "Dollar Works," a nationally recognized curriculum on family resource management. She led a multi-state research project on Rural Low Income Families the results of which were published in 2011 in the book, *Rural Families and Work: Context and Problems*.

You can view additional information about these two outstanding women and link to formal obituaries on the "In Memoriam" page on the NCFR website <http://www.ncfr.org/community/memoriam>. Dr. Walker, Dr. Bauer, and other recently deceased NCFR members will be remembered at the memorial service held in conjunction with the NCFR annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona. For a schedule of conference meetings please see <http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2012/conference-schedule>.

#### Online Seminars

NCFR is responding to member requests for online training with our first webinar scheduled for September 6, 2012, at 11 a.m. central time. Done in partnership with the Minnesota

Council on Family Relations (MCFR), "An introduction to ethical thinking and practice for family professionals - a case study approach," is aimed at parent and family life educators and those in related settings. This webinar is an introduction to the ethical thinking and practice process and has been approved for 1.5 Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits.

Thank you to the Minnesota Council on Family Relations for the use of their Ethical Thinking and Practices process and to Beth Gausman, MS, CFLE, Mary Maher, LSW, LPE, and Bill Allen, Ph.D. All three are MCFR and NCFR members and have been involved in offering Ethical Thinking and Practice workshops throughout Minnesota and will be the webinar presenters.

If you have topic ideas for future webinars please contact NCFR Director of Education Dawn Cassidy at [dawncassidy@ncfr.org](mailto:dawncassidy@ncfr.org).

#### 2012 Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona

Planning continues for NCFR's 2012 annual conference. NCFR staff has sought reassurance from state and local officials regarding the safety and welfare of all conference participants in light of Arizona's position on immigration. While some NCFR Arizona members have said there is no more reason for concern about personal safety than would be the case in any other major city, another member recommended carrying identifica-

tion, such as a passport. At this time, registration for this year's conference is slightly ahead of recent years.

Ethnic minorities comprise 40% of Arizona's population. Maricopa County (Phoenix) has 1.1 million Latinos (30% of the population), and the Phoenix city manager, police chief, and four of eight police precinct commanders are Latino.

For background and additional information about NCFR's response please visit <http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2012/arizona-and-immigration>. If you have special concerns please contact NCFR's Director of Membership and Marketing, Charles Cheesebrough at [charliecheesebrough@ncfr.org](mailto:charliecheesebrough@ncfr.org).

#### Staffing updates

In June of this year, after careful consideration of member needs, the position of Member Relations Manager was eliminated and replaced by the Online Community and Web Content Manager Position. Future member relations efforts will be aimed at anticipating and developing programs and services that will be of value to members by engaging in online social networking with members. You will see increased reporting on member, section, and affiliate activities and the field of family research and practice in general. Allison Wickler will join our staff in early September, bringing with her journalism skills developed in the online age. NCFR staff will continue to respond promptly to member inquiries and concerns.

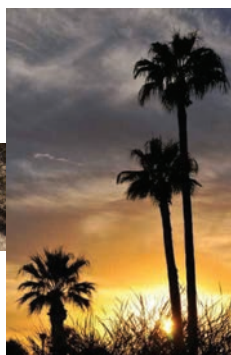
In June we said goodbye to longtime NCFR staff members Lynda Bessey and Pat Knutson Grams, finance assistant. In August we welcomed Morgan Cole who has extensive experience in the use of NCFR's financial program, Great Plains. Morgan is the mother of three-year old Greta and enjoys a variety of outdoor activities.

From our offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota, we wish you a superb fall and look forward to seeing you in Phoenix in November. ■

74th Annual  
Conference of the  
National Council  
on Family Relations



October 31–  
November 3  
Phoenix, Arizona





## NCFR launches CFLE-approved online course listing

by Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE, Education Director, [dawncassidy@ncfr.org](mailto:dawncassidy@ncfr.org)

Finding online CFLE-approved academic courses has just gotten easier. National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) recently launched a **CFLE-Approved Online Course listing** on the NCFR website. <http://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification/cfle-approved-online-courses>

Since 1996 the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) has reviewed undergraduate and graduate degree programs for inclusion of academic courses covering the content needed for Provisional status as a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE). Provisional certification was created to provide access to the professional credential for the applicant with a family degree that lacked the work experience required for Full Certification. Students who graduate from NCFR-approved academic programs can apply for

Provisional CFLE status via the Abbreviated Application process <http://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification/abbreviated-application-process> within two years of graduation.

NCFR approval has historically been confined to a specified degree program or to an identified CFLE track of courses offered through several departments. In order to be considered an NCFR-approved CFLE program, an institution must offer coursework covering *all ten of the family life content areas*, plus a supervised practicum or internship that includes focus on family life education (a two or three-credit course that involves at least 120 hours in the field).

While most students at NCFR-approved schools are able to complete all the CFLE-approved coursework at their institution, scheduling conflicts can sometimes result in

the need for a student to complete a course at another school. NCFR is frequently contacted by students and professors asking if any other institution might be offering a CFLE-approved course online. In an effort to create a better system for connecting students and courses, NCFR has created the CFLE-Approved Online Course listing.

### Online Academic Course Approval Criteria

Course approval will be limited to **one** CFLE content area. While many courses will include coverage of issues relevant to more than one CFLE content area, courses approved for the **NCFR CFLE-Approved Online Course** listing must cover the majority of a single content area. For example, a course approved for the *Parent Education and Guidance* content area must cover the concepts of this content area solely within the one course and not in combination with another course.

All courses listed on the CFLE-Approved Online Course listing must be submitted to NCFR via the CFLE Online Academic Course Submission process, *even if they have already been approved as part of a CFLE-approved academic program*. However, those already approved for CFLE (the course already appears on an approved school's CFLE checklist) will not be reviewed; rather they will have automatic approval. The submission process is required in order for NCFR to gather the information needed to post the course on the website. **There is no review fee for courses that are already CFLE-approved.**

CFLE-approved schools that want to submit courses that have not been previously reviewed for CFLE (the course does not appear on the school's CFLE checklist) will pay a \$50 review fee per course. This fee will cover the cost of reviewing the course to ensure that it meets the CFLE content criteria. Schools that are not CFLE-approved can submit individual online courses for review for a fee of \$100 per course.

*cfle directions continued on page 6*

### Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between April 1 and June 30, 2012. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

#### California

Erica Lee

#### Colorado

Amy Maness FULL

#### Connecticut

Stephanie Vacek

#### Illinois

Carrie Summers

#### Iowa

Emily Walter

#### Louisiana

Christina Bowser  
Adelle Luna

#### Maryland

Ashley Anthony  
Emma Miller

#### Michigan

Robin Gallagher FULL  
Patricia Jackson FULL  
Tracy Keefer

Debra Morgan

Joyce Oliver

Yolanda Thompson

#### Minnesota

Kathryn "Kate" Quebodeaux  
Stephanie Sampair

#### Montana

Dana Pratt

#### New Jersey

Antonia Marta Borrero FULL

#### North Carolina

Lee Mitchell  
Aisha Powell

#### Ohio

Jenna Moran  
Sheena Wedge

#### Oklahoma

Angela Strader

#### Pennsylvania

Elizabeth Bullwinkle

#### South Carolina

BarbaraAnn "B.A." Kinsman  
FULL

#### Texas

Brittany Doyle  
Kristin Martin  
Danieal Sanzo

#### Utah

Chelsey Gillen  
Candace Mathews  
Amie Mondragon  
Janice Nielsen  
Courtney Parker  
Heather Shaffer

#### Virginia

Sesalle McDaniel

#### Washington

David Douglas FULL  
Sydnee Matthews

#### Wyoming

Lisa Brown



# You've got mail! An explanation of NCFR e-mail listservs

by Jason Samuels, NCFR IT Manager, [jasonsamuels@ncfr.org](mailto:jasonsamuels@ncfr.org)

A staple of NCFR's online communications strategy for nearly a decade has been the use of e-mail listservs to facilitate communication to and among members. The purpose of this article is to explain the scope and purpose of NCFR listservs.

NCFR currently maintains five dozen e-mail listservs, the majority of which fall into the following categories: sections, affiliate councils, and focus groups. If you're a member of a section or focus group, or if you reside in a geographic area covered by an affiliate council, you have been subscribed. All active members are also subscribed to NCFR's weekly news and announcements list (*Zippy News*), to new content alerts for the journals included with your membership, and all CFLEs are subscribed to the CFLE discussion list.

NCFR subscribes members to e-mail listservs on an opt-out basis. The mechanism is automated via a weekly scripted integration between our database and ListManager software, and every welcome message contains a link to unsubscribe (opt out) from that list. An e-mail address to unsubscribe also exists at the bottom of each listserv message you receive.

The unsubscribe address at the bottom of each message is unique for each recipient. Occasionally a discussion gets going and multiple e-mail footers pile up, then someone mistakenly clicks on the wrong unsubscribe address. The software is smart enough to correlate the e-mail address sending the re-request to the e-mail address being unsubscribed, and if they don't match it sends back an e-mail asking you to confirm. So if you get a request to confirm unsubscribing from a listserv, and you didn't actually request that, just ignore it and you'll remain on the list.

You may view listserv archives and manage your subscriptions by visiting [www.ncfr.org/listserv-archive](http://www.ncfr.org/listserv-archive) and logging in with your e-mail address. This portal gives you access to view the sent message archives, as well as access to modify your subscription preferences (such as whether you prefer receiving messages as they're sent or in a daily digest format).

Discussion listservs are configured only to accept and relay messages from other subscribed members. Unfortunately it is still necessary to screen incoming messages

through a junk filter to prevent the listservs from relaying malicious spam if a member's e-mail account gets hacked. To this end, we implemented Google Message Security, which has been effective at stopping spam but also sometimes quarantines legitimate messages. NCFR staff checks the quarantine frequently and lets those false positives through as we see them. If you've sent a listserv message that took a couple days to go through, this is likely the cause. Your messages should start going through immediately. If you don't see a copy in your inbox within 15 minutes, please contact us and we'll figure out the cause.

Other things to keep in mind when sending a message to an NCFR listserv are the size limit (no more than 200kb) and the require-

ment that the address you're sending from exactly match your subscription address. Sometimes e-mail clients are configured with slight differences in the "sent from" address. In those cases, NCFR staff can set up an alias for you so that ListManager knows to accept messages from it. Again, please let us know if you don't see your message come through within 15 minutes.

The listservs exist to facilitate member communication, and we encourage you to make frequent use of them. If you have questions regarding what is and is not an appropriate use of the listservs, please see [www.ncfr.org/listserv-terms-use](http://www.ncfr.org/listserv-terms-use). For any other listserv questions, feel free to contact me at [jasonsamuels@ncfr.org](mailto:jasonsamuels@ncfr.org) ■

## *cfle directions* continued from page 5

All CFLE-approved courses must be offered by institutions that are regionally accredited. Applicants will need to provide information regarding the regional accreditation recognition of the school's eligibility to offer courses via distance education.

The creation of the CFLE-Approved Online Course listing is an important step in increasing the availability of CFLE-approved coursework which in turn should increase the number of family studies graduates eligible to apply for the CFLE designation via the Abbreviated Application process.

The CFLE-Approved Online Course listing will also be helpful to those interested in advancing their knowledge in certain family life content areas, even if they are not planning to become certified or already have the CFLE designation.

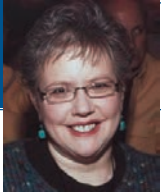
The Online CFLE Academic Course Submission Form and Directions can be accessed on the NCFR website at <http://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification/cfle-forms/online-cfle-academic-course-submission-form>

If you have questions about the CFLE-Approved Online Course listing or the submission process, contact Dawn Cassidy at [dawncassidy@ncfr.org](mailto:dawncassidy@ncfr.org) or 763-231-2882.

From "Our NCFR Family," we introduce Kari Morgan, Ph.D., CFLE, from the University of Wyoming and one member of her family, her Newfoundland dog, Jemma Joy. Don't be afraid of Jemma's size—she is a gentle giant. According to the American Kennel Club, Newfies' "sweetness of temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland; this is the most important single characteristic of the breed." Jemma is currently training to be a therapy dog and is looking forward to a career working with children and adults who struggle with anxiety-related issues. Dr. Morgan has been an active member of NCFR since 1992 and is serving as our editorial adviser for this issue of *NCFR Report*.

## Our NCFR family





## Strangers on a train

by Nancy Gonzalez, CFLE, Editor, [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org)

One of the most fascinating people I ever met was a compulsive liar. Many years ago, for one of our wedding anniversaries, my husband George and I reserved a fun dinner excursion on a train. The train operated at low speed on an abandoned railway not used for anything else. It had a vintage dining car where we enjoyed a white linen dinner as we journeyed through a scenic area with beautiful fall color. The slightly different aspect of it was that all the tables seated four people. In other words, if you were there as a couple, you were seated with another couple whom you didn't know. In American culture, being seated with strangers is odd, but since it was protocol, we got used to the idea pretty quickly.

Our dinner companions turned out to be among the most interesting people we could hope to meet. This other couple—let's call them Jane Jones and John Smith—were not married but were romantic partners. They had been seeing each other for about a month. After some introductory pleasantries, and as the dinner proceeded, we got to talking about who we were, what we did for a living and the like. Jane turned out to be a fairly typical young woman. But John, about 10 years older than Jane, was ... well—we may never know.

John started telling us about his life. The stories started with some remarkable stuff—we were quite impressed. But by the time the dinner ended, my husband and I had discovered a new meaning to the phrase “shovel ready.”

George and I don't remember all the details today (I regret not writing them down). He had a list of credentials, honors and life experiences that made Leonardo da Vinci look like Homer Simpson. He had started some very successful businesses and made a lot of money. He'd been in the Special Forces in the military, and had some harrowing tales of danger and his accompanying valor. He had a Purple Heart, of course.

As these tales started to pile up, George and I started exchanging glances. We're not

used to people like this, so it probably took too long to get past the naiveté. But after an hour of hearing one Walter Mitty adventure after another, we caught on. Any one of his stories alone was plausible, but there's only just so much that can happen to one person. What was even more amazing is that his girlfriend sat gazing at him as if she were dating a John Wayne-Albert Einstein hybrid. She lapped up everything he said.

John made his error when he claimed an achievement that I could fact-check. He said he had gone to a major university on a full hockey scholarship. Ah hah, I thought. Now I've got him. I was an academic adviser at the time and knew my way around universities.



Our dinner was on a Saturday night. I could hardly wait until Monday morning when I called the university in question. I asked for the athletic director's department.

I asked, “Hi. I have a question. If I wanted to know if someone had been awarded a hockey scholarship in the past, whom would I ask?” I was transferred to a charming gentleman of whom I asked the same question.

“I'm the one who would know,” he said.

“Well we're going back a few years,” I replied.

He said, “I've been the sports historian here since 1962.” (This was well within the window of possible years.) I gave the historian the guy's name.

“Nope—never played hockey here,” he said without missing a beat.

“Are you sure?” I asked. “This guy told me he'd completed his degree on full athletic scholarship.”

The historian laughed, “You've been told something that's not true. I know the name of everyone who even tried out for the team since I started working here. I've never heard of the guy.”

I thanked him and hung up. I couldn't wait to call George with the news who, of course, was not surprised. George has a better sense of baloney than I do, perhaps because he's a city kid. I grew up in a small town where no one could get by with an assumed identity. Everyone knew everyone *and* their families back two generations.

Since then, we have run into one more Great Pretender (that we know of). The next guy was a friend of friends and had another list of accolades too unlikely to belong to one life. Again, the guy came up with a detail that could be fact-checked. He told our friends that he was still “sort of” in the military (Reserves? It wasn't clear) and that he had authorization to fly a military plane from the Minneapolis Air Guard base to Nellis Air Force base near Las Vegas. George had met him once and was immediately suspicious. Mr. Pretender had told our friends the model of the plane he supposedly flew. The tip off was that this guy weighed all of 300 lbs. George is an aviation enthusiast and knew the specs for that plane. “There's no way he'd fit in the cockpit,” he told our friends. He warned them to be careful in their dealings with this guy, and that it was probably not a good idea to confront him—he could be dangerous.

About three weeks later, the guy skipped town. Poof! Gone. They found out soon thereafter that he was on the lam for a felony—attempted murder of a police officer—in another state.

There are some amazing people who have actually lived extraordinary lives like these guys claimed to have lived—the late Academy Award-winning actor and military hero Jimmy Stewart comes to mind. But the life lesson we learned is that if something is too incredible to believe, it's worth discreetly

*report from minneapolis continued on page 8*

# Inclusion and Diversity Committee news:

## Watch for IDC survey this fall

One of the key tasks of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) is to identify the inclusion and diversity strengths, issues, and opportunities within all aspects of NCFR. This year the IDC is taking a two-pronged approach to this task. We recently surveyed all current NCFR section chairs and chairs-elect, and this fall we plan to survey the entire NCFR membership. We will provide information from this member survey during our IDC Breakfast at the annual conference on Thursday, November 1, in Phoenix. The information that we gain through these efforts is critically important to NCFR's efforts to meet the needs of our diverse membership.

Since so much of the work of NCFR occurs in sections, we wanted to gather information from section chairs in several key areas:

- Ways that NCFR sections address diversity and inclusion
- Section goals or vision related to diversity and inclusion
- How the work of the section is best captured in terms of diversity and inclusion

We also asked for feedback to the IDC to help us meet the needs of sections as well as NCFR members.

The results of the recent survey indicated that even though there is variability in the ways that sections approach diversity and inclusion, there are also similar approaches used across sections, including encouraging members from diverse backgrounds to be fully involved in all section tasks, addressing diversity and inclusion issues in publications, encouraging high-quality research and theory

on issues of inclusion and diversity, soliciting annual conference presentations on topics related to diversity and inclusion, and identifying topics for special sessions on current diversity and inclusion issues as well as jointly sponsoring conference sessions. For example, in Phoenix, there will be special sessions on health disparities.

Sections also vary in whether they have articulated a vision or goals that incorporate diversity and inclusion. Some sections, such

*inclusion and diversity continued on page 9*

### *report from minneapolis continued from page 7*

checking out before one extends friendship, a job offer, investments or anything else of value to their trust. For us, it was an unnerving wake-up call.

Since that anniversary dinner, I have often wondered about Jane Jones. By the time I knew that something wasn't right, the dinner was over and we parted. At the time, I thought he was just a guy with low self-esteem who

was trying to impress a new girlfriend. Now, with years of life experience, I would be more wary—and worried about Jane. My point is that nothing really prepares you to deal with people like this. We have family life education that covers numerous areas of life skills—parenting, money management, communication and more. Where does one learn how to handle a person who lies like wall-to-wall berber? ■



## NCFR Career Center

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## ***inclusion and diversity***

*continued from page 5*

as Ethnic Minorities and Feminism and Family Studies, have diversity and inclusion issues and topics as central and guiding forces that influence the work of the sections; other sections rarely address diversity and inclusion directly in terms of goals, but there is interest in and attention paid to these issues through such avenues as special sessions at the conference or focus groups.

Addressing diversity and inclusion issues is viewed as an area of growth for sections, and the section leaders indicated strong interest in and positive views about addressing these topics more directly. Section leaders are interested in training for new chairs about the goals and work of the IDC and in identifying collaborative opportunities for sections to work together in addressing diversity and inclusion issues. An interesting point was made that there may be unaddressed issues that could be identified by more explicitly asking section members to identify diversity or inclusion issues for sections to address.

The IDC members appreciate the valuable information and insightful suggestions from section leadership and plan to use these suggestions to guide us as we continue the work of this committee. In previous *NCFR Report* articles, we have provided summaries of the work of the IDC and we will continue our efforts to communicate fully and openly with the NCFR membership about IDC goals and accomplishments.

We also appreciated the members who joined us for our breakfast gathering in Orlando, where we had lively discussions and gained valuable insights from NCFR members about the definition of diversity and inclusion, sponsorship ideas for the IDC at future conferences, and suggestions for collaborative opportunities with NCFR sections. An example is "Womb to Womb: The Persisting Influence of Health Disparities Across the Life Course," a special session sponsored by the FP, FH, EM, and IN sections and the IDC at this year's annual conference.

Our next step will be to survey the entire NCFR membership, and you will be hearing more about that survey soon. We also look forward to sharing the results from that survey with NCFR members, both in *NCFR Report* and at the Phoenix IDC breakfast session on Thursday, November 1, 7:30–9:00 a.m. ■

# **Family Policy Section membership survey: Listening and responding**

by W. Michael Fleming, past chair

Last fall, we conducted a survey of the members of the Family Policy Section to learn more about members' interests and desires. One section of the survey asked about what you would like from the section for the annual NCFR conference. The 2012 conference is shaping up to be a special conference that will address many of the issues shared in the survey. The Family Policy executive committee members took your feedback into consideration and are excited to feature a few conference sessions.

One theme that emerged from the responses is a policy focus on healthcare issues. The FP Section is pleased to co-sponsor the special session, "Womb to Womb: The Persisting Influence of Health Disparities Across the Life Course," by Glenna Barnes and Debra

Coehlo with Anne Farrell as discussant and a follow-up Fireside Chat facilitated by Anne Farrell and Bill Allen.

Bethany Letiecq also is chairing an invited symposium, "Community-Based Participatory Research with Health Disparate Communities: Implications For Health, Policy, and Justice," to introduce community-based participatory research (CBPR) with vulnerable communities. Given the theme of this year's conference, we are sure that members will find many sessions that are exciting, challenging, and informative and speak to your desire to have a healthcare policy focus.

Many members of the Family Policy Section are involved in teaching family policy and in the survey spoke to the desire to have

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## **Religion and Family Life Section**

by Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair, [jroberts@hsutx.edu](mailto:jroberts@hsutx.edu)

As we look forward to fall, I hope you have our annual conference in your plans. This year's program spotlights some of the most interesting research taking place in the area of family and religion. How religion influences our well-being will be addressed in a special session jointly sponsored by the Religion and Family Life and Family and Health sections. The title of the session is "Religion and Well-Being: Individual, Marital, and Family Connections." Outstanding presenters include Loren Marks, Annette Mahoney, Nick Wolfinger, and Frank Fincham. This promises to be a lively and informative session and will take place on Wednesday, October 31, at 8:30 a.m.

Several outstanding proposals were submitted to the Religion and Family Life Section this year. We will be sponsoring two paper sessions and a number of posters. The following papers will be presented on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.:

- "Religion and Transformative Processes in Marriage: A Qualitative Study," Michael Goodman, David Dollahite, Loren Marks, and Emily Layton
- "Relations Among Risk, Religiosity, and Marital Commitment," Jonathan Olson, H. Wallace Goddard, and James Marshall

- "The Impact of Well Being and Religion on Women's Relationship Satisfaction," by Nichole Huff, Joann Lianekhammy, and Martha Perry
- "Actions Speak Louder than Beliefs: Religion, Compassion, and Marriage," Allen Sabey and Amy Rauer.

The following papers will be presented at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday:

- "Does Religious Motivation Influence the Conceptualization and Acceptability of Forgiveness as a Therapeutic Intervention?" Ryan Seedall, Mark Butler, and Jennifer Elledge
- "The Effects of Denomination on Religious Socialization for Jewish Youth," Anthony James, Ashlie Lester, and Greg Brooks
- "Testing the Transformational Model of Religious Socialization," Ashlie Lester and David Schramm
- "Familial Relationship Outcomes of Coming Out Atheist," Benjamin Meyers, Jesse Spencer, Kevin Simonson, and Kevin Zimmerman

It is not too early to start thinking about submitting a proposal for the 2013 annual conference. We would like to see the number of submissions, both professional and SNP, double next year. ■

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# News from the Family and Health Section

by B. Jan McCulloch, Ph.D., Chair, [jmccullo@umn.edu](mailto:jmccullo@umn.edu)



Plans for our activities at the upcoming conference in Phoenix are coming along nicely. Thanks to all your hard work at the first of the year, our section had a huge increase in abstract submissions. We had so many that we were not able to fulfill many individuals' first choices for presentation, but I believe we have worked things out so that our program content will be excellent and worth making the effort to attend several FH sessions and events.

Our section will be sponsoring or co sponsoring several special sessions at the conference.

- "Immigrant Health" featuring Alex Ortega, Professor of Public Health at UCLA;
- "Womb to Womb: The Persisting Influence of Health Disparities across the Life Course" (with the Family Policy, Ethnic Minorities, and International sections, and the Committee on Inclusion and Diversity);
- "Family Education and Diabetes Management—The FEDS Project" (with the Education and Enrichment and Ethnic Minorities sections); and

- "Religion and Well-Being: Individual, Marital, and Family Connections," a panel discussion (with the Religion and Family Life section).

The FH "Walk to Phoenix" project will be nearing an end. I hope all of you continue to log your miles. This has been a fun project and one that I hope has kept NCFR, and especially our section members, involved, enthusiastic, and anticipating the culmination of this friendly competition.

The FH executive committee met yesterday to outline our plans for the 5K Fun Walk/Run. We think you will find the course convenient and lovely. We met in August to finalize details. Please note that this is an activity suggested at our own membership meeting two years ago. We will be raising money for a local organization, BorderLinks, which supports immigrant families. This is a great way for the membership to be involved in something fun, healthy, and generative. You will be receiving notification from NCFR regarding registration.

When you combine our record-breaking abstract submissions, our involvement in special sessions, the "Walk to Phoenix" project, and our sponsorship of the 5K Fun Walk/Run, the Family and Health section has an awesome conference presence. On behalf of the executive committee, I want to thank you for your involvement!

See you in Phoenix! ■

## Family Therapy Section news

by Tom Blume, Chair, [blume@oakland.edu](mailto:blume@oakland.edu)

This has been another great year for the Family Therapy Section. After years of planning and selecting from a very competitive pool of nominees, the Kathleen Briggs Mentoring Award was presented to the first (shared) recipients, Karen Wampler and Richard Wampler. And the membership of the section voted to support Karen Wampler's proposal for a new Mentoring Focus Group to be sponsored by the FT section.

At the 2012 NCFR Annual Conference in Phoenix, we are sponsoring or cosponsoring an exciting array of workshops, roundtables, symposia, paper sessions, and posters. Two of the most exciting offerings in Phoenix will focus on the conference theme of "Families and Health."

The first is a collaboration with the Feminism and Family Studies Section, a special session titled "Medical Family Therapy—Bridging Medical and Relational Discourses." Panelists Aimee Galick, Elizabeth Patrick, and Barbara Hernandez will discuss their clinical and research experience with the gendered nature of medical care, facilitated by Carmen Knudson-Martin.

The second, a symposium titled "Relational Intervention with Gendered Health Issues," will feature presentations on breast cancer, obesity, and infertility by Alison Wong and Stephanie Trudeau-Hern; Heather Hoshiko and Stephen Fife; and Constance Shapiro.

I want to personally thank all of the hard-working and responsive volunteers who

*family therapy section continued on page 12*

## *family policy section continued from page 9*

ongoing resources to assist them in their work as educators, scholars, and practitioners. Members will be pleased to learn that the Family Policy Section is sponsoring a special symposium, "Improving Family Policy and Practice: Innovations in Evidence-Based Family Strengthening Approaches," chaired by Karen Bogenschneider and Olivia Little, with Theodora Ooms serving as discussant and Abel Ortiz, director of the Evidence-Based Practice Group with Annie E. Casey Family Foundation as a presenter. These symposia should provide excellent dialogues and resources for those engaged in family policy.

A special section of the survey asked about FP members' level of involvement in the section. Another theme that emerged is that many members indicated they did not know how to become involved in the section's business. The FP executive committee wants to address this by offering an open invitation to become more involved in the section. In the previous *NCFR Report*, a number of avenues in which members can become involved in some of the business of the section were shared. For more information on these com-

mittees or other ways of becoming involved, feel free to contact Tammy Henderson, FP Chair, at [tammy.henderson@okstate.edu](mailto:tammy.henderson@okstate.edu) or 405-744-8350.

The Family Policy Membership Survey provided a wealth of information on what members want from the section and NCFR as practitioners, researchers, and educators. Among the many things shared in the survey, we learned that members who are engaged in research are looking for training on methodologies and analytical strategies used in policy research and evaluation. For the members who are primarily educators, we learned that you are looking for new and exciting ways of bringing critiques of policies and proposals into the classrooms. For practitioners, we learned that you are looking for resources on how to translate policy research and evaluation into useful tools to facilitate your work with families. For professionals in general, we learned that you are looking for ways to connect with each other to learn from one another and to facilitate and support each other's work. We have a lot of work ahead and welcome your involvement as we move forward. ■



**in this issue:**

**Family Focus on...  
Open Mic**



## Elections Council seeks leaders for NCFR

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

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

- Three Board Members-at-Large (2014-2017)

### **family therapy section**

*continued from page 11*

contributed to the make the selection process a success: Kevin Allemagne, Jared Anderson, Shayne Anderson, Deborah Bailey, Iva Benkomir, Blake Berryhill, Markie Blumer, Greg Brooks, Stephen Brown, Tom Carlson, Jessica Chen, Shonda Craft, Raquel Delevi, Brian Distelberg, Matthew Dodd, Lindsey Edwards, Tony Faber, Stephen Fife, Patti Follansbee, Erika Grafsky, Mary Sue Green, Dale Hawley, Kay Higgs-Adams, Cody Hollist, Kendal Holtrop, Jeff Jackson, Mary Jo Jones, Carmen Knudson-Martin, Linda Ladd, Yvonne Makidon, Christine McGeorge, Susan Meyerle, Bobbi Miller, Megan Murphy, Matthew Mutchler, Alba Nino, Spencer Olmstead, Martha Perry, Colleen Peterson, Shruti Poulsen, Hye-Sun Ro, Rachel Tambling, Volker Thomas, Jackie Williams Reade, and Carolyn Wright. ■

- Three Inclusion & Diversity Committee Members-at-Large (2014-2017)
- Program Chair-Elect (2014-2015; Program Chair 2016 in Minneapolis)
- Student/New Professional Conference Program Representative (2014-2016)
- Two Elections Council members (2014-2017)

Each year we begin our work on the next election cycle at the annual conference, asking sections to nominate potential candidates for the organizational level positions that need to be filled, and encouraging individuals to nominate either themselves or others. Last year we were more than pleased at the number of candidates who offered to run for office, and we are excited about the outstanding list of potential candidates we have before us. We are now in the process of contacting potential candidates to ask them to run in the 2013 election.

In the spring, we will meet to identify and discuss possible candidates for 2014 who have been identified by nomination or who appear on lists of members who have previously served in leadership positions across the organization. We consider not only the experience of individual candidates, but also the structure of the overall slate, asking ourselves if we are building a slate that reflects the strength and diversity of the organization and its members.

The Elections Council's responsibility is to help NCFR members match their leadership abilities to the leadership opportunities that abound within our organization, and we take

seriously the NCFR Board's charge to find the right people who are willing to have their names placed on the ballot each year. We are guided by the operating values outlined in the NCFR by-laws and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures. Our desire is to build a slate that represents the entire NCFR membership and that reflects and promotes the mission and goals of NCFR.

### **NCFR Elections Committee**

Sandra J. Bailey and Karen Wampler (Co-chairs), Alan C. Acock, April Few-Demo, Gary W. Peterson, Laura A. Sanchez, I. Joyce Chang (Board Liaison to the Elections Council) ■

## Thank you donors

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

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Tammy L. Henderson  
Gary R. Lee  
Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth  
Katsuko Makino  
Sharon Nickols  
Virginia C. Shipman  
Anisa M. Zvonkovic

4/1/2012 - 6/30/2012