

IN THIS ISSUE

Family Focus theme: Entrepreneurship and Family Business

Articles in the Family Focus section of this issue address how family involvement changes the goals and focus of a business, how business commitments interact with the health of family members, family businesses in different cultural contexts, and more.

In the News:

- Nominate Candidates and Vote, 2
- Bill Allen Offers "Winter Wishes and Resolutions," 3
- Thank You, Conference Sponsors, 4
- Planning for the Future, 5
- In Memoriam, 6
- Meeting the Needs of Practitioners, 7
- NCFR and the United Nations, 9
- Bob Milardo Discusses Editorial Decision Letters, 11
- 2016 Award Winners, 14
- Member Group Updates, 18

Call for Proposals

2017 NCFR Annual Conference
Nov. 15–18, Orlando, Florida

**Families as Catalysts:
Shaping Neurons,
Neighborhoods, and Nations**

Find the call for proposals at
ncfr.org/ncfr-2017

Congratulations to Our 2016 Award Winners

An important part of NCFR's work and mission is to recognize excellence and service by giving awards. Congratulations to our deserving 2016 award recipients!

Interested in future awards opportunities? Start planning now to apply or nominate someone for next year's awards. Information is on the NCFR website (ncfr.org/awards), and the annual awards information will be distributed in late winter or early spring. Nomination deadlines for most major awards are in April or May.

Turn to page 14 to read profiles of our major award winners and see the complete list of 2016 awardees.

November 2-5, 2016 | Minneapolis, Minnesota

Scenes From the NCFR Conference



Mission Statement for NCFR Report

NCFR 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 Science issues, programs, and trends, including association news.

President: William D. Allen

Board Members: Nathan Cottle, Kimberly Crossman, Karen Benjamin Guzzo, Jennifer Kerpelman, Karen Seccombe, Sandra Stith, Stephan M. Wilson, Anisa M. Zvonkovic

Executive Director: Diane Cushman

News Editor: Allison Wickler

Family Focus Editor:

Judith A. Myers-Walls, Ph.D., CFLE

How to contribute to the Family Focus section:

The Family Focus section of *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,
- 2) brevity due to space limitations, and
- 3) how articles form a complementary collection.

For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Judith A. Myers-Walls, Ph.D., CFLE at

reporteditor@ncfr.org. **The contents of articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.**

How to advertise in NCFR Report

To advertise in *NCFR Report*, please see the specifications and price list at ncfr.org/ncfr-report/advertise-report. NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion. Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are:

Spring issue—Jan. 1

Summer issue—April 1

Fall issue—July 1

Winter issue—Oct. 1

Send advertisements to Brian Boese at brianboese@ncfr.org. For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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Nominate Candidates and Vote!

Mick Cunningham, NCFR 2016 Elections Council Chair

Get involved in the leadership of your organization by nominating candidates for and voting in NCFR elections! The vitality of NCFR depends on the dedication of members to serve in leadership positions at various levels.

Leadership in NCFR offers many benefits and rewards, including

- ~ the opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise to promote the welfare of families and children
- ~ status and recognition by local, state, national, and international audiences
- ~ networking and professional development opportunities

The charge of NCFR's Elections Council is to identify people who are willing to commit their time and energy for leadership positions. Please consider how your skills and gifts might benefit NCFR. In turn, you'll have the opportunity to gain valuable leadership experience and grow personally and professionally.

Again, two ways to be involved are to vote in NCFR's election each February and to nominate candidates for future election ballots.

Vote in Upcoming Elections

The Elections Council encourages all members to vote in February 2017. We have submitted a nomination slate (ballots will be emailed to members in February 2017) for terms that will be filled at the end of the NCFR Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, in November 2017. The nominees are as follows:

Board President-Elect (2017–2019), President (2019–2021)

Leigh Leslie—MD vs.

Brad van Eeden-Moorefield—NJ

Board Member-at-Large (2017–2020) (3 Positions)

Manijeh Daneshpour—CA vs.

April Few-Demo—VT

Brian Ogolsky—IL vs. Shawn Whiteman—IN

Bethany Letiecq—VA vs.

Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan—OH

Affiliate Councils President-Elect (2017–2019), Affiliate Councils Board President (2019–2021)

Brandon Burr—OK vs. Tammy Harpel—IL

Students and New Professionals Board Representative-Elect (2017–2018), SNP Board Representative (2018–2020)

Lindsay Edwards—CO vs. Andrea Roach—CA

Elections Council (2017–2020) (2 Positions)

Jodi Dworkin—MN vs. Ted Futris—GA

Heather Helms—NC vs. Kate Kovalanka—OH

Inclusion and Diversity Committee Member-at-Large (2017–2020) (3 Positions)

Tiffany Brown—NJ

Chalandra Bryant—GA

Lisa Moyer—IL

Kathleen Rodgers—WA

Kristy Shih—MI

Inclusion and Diversity Committee Students and New Professionals Representative (2017–2019)

Elizabeth Holman—IL vs.

Ashley Walsdorf—GA

Nominate Yourself or Others for the February 2018 Slate (Deadline Jan. 31, 2017)

The Elections Council also encourages all members to nominate yourself or others for the February 2018 slate of election candidates. Here are the eligibility criteria to help you decide whether you would be willing to be nominated and/or to identify potential candidates for the upcoming election:

- ~ Current membership in NCFR
- ~ Knowledge and/or experience in areas reflecting broad trends in human development, Family Science, marriage and family practice, sociology, and related professions
- ~ Knowledge and/or experience in leadership roles through sections, affiliate councils, Elections Council, conference planning, publishing, public policy, or other committee work

When identifying members to run for office, consideration should be given to a slate that is diverse in its representation of members. Please see NCFR's definition of diversity and guiding principles for inclusion and diversity at ncfr.org/about/inclusion-and-diversity.

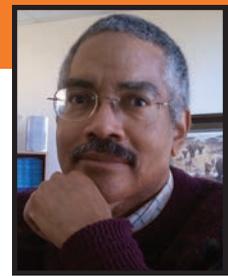
2018 Elections

The terms for candidates elected in the subsequent February 2018 election will begin in November 2018, at the end of the NCFR Annual Conference in San Diego, California. Those positions are as follows:

Students and New Professionals Program Representative, 2018–2020

The SNP program representative serves a two-year term as a member of the Annual Conference Program Committee and member

Nominate and Vote continued on page 6



Winter Wishes and Resolutions

William D. Allen, Ph.D., LMFT, NCFR President, ballen@umn.edu

By the time you read this we will have returned from the NCFR Annual Conference, experienced another presidential election, and be anticipating a new year. One year's end (and another's beginning) is typically a time of celebration, of spending way too much on ourselves and/or others, and often, taking stock of things. I thought I might take this time to share a few thoughts about our organization in the form of holiday wishes and resolutions. (I ask your forgiveness if gift giving and resolutions aren't part of your year-end traditions.)

Wish 1: A Spirit of Collegiality Within NCFR

Perhaps it's the family therapist in me, but I am constantly thinking, worrying, and, yes, even obsessing about how we treat one another in this organization. In a world where it is so easy to fall into factions and seek out only those who like us, are like us, or at least agree with us, it is hard to resist the temptation to adopt the same approach with our colleagues. If we're not careful, we want to attack people who share our interest in or love of families and family relationships, solely because we or they disagree about one aspect of family life that we believe to be "essential." Worse still, we denounce anyone who even dares to call such infighting into question.

I have written elsewhere about the multidisciplinary forces that brought NCFR into being. It was important to the founders and early members of the organization to work across professional identities and personal ideologies to build an organization dedicated to improving the prospects for families. Did they do that perfectly? Of course not; in some ways, their biases reflected the society they were embedded in, as our failings are reflective of ours. But just as the fundamental ideas of liberty and equality shaped (however imperfectly) the United States—a bold experiment we are still conducting—the idea that researchers, educators, and practitioners who share families and family relationships as their primary interest might work together is an idea that bears our continued commitment.

Wish 2: Greater Influence (More Traction) From Our Work in Society

Did you catch Dr. Bahira Sherif Trask's plenary speech at the NCFR conference in Baltimore a couple of years ago? I hope I'm getting this right, but my recollection is that at one point she spoke about her frustration in hearing yet another report or interview on families where the "expert" being cited was someone outside the family field, or where the "data" came from a source unrelated to Family Science. I recall seeing a lot of heads in the room nodding in agreement (or shaking in mutual frustration).

I'm not suggesting here that only "certified" Family Scientists should have anything to say about families. That would be contrary to the point I was making about our field being

The idea that researchers, educators, and practitioners who share families and family relationships as their primary interest might work together is an idea that bears our continued commitment.

multidisciplinary. I think the frustration is grounded in the sense that most of us want our work to have more traction in society. We want it to help more families, and not just the visible ones, but the "invisible" ones; not just the popular, but the unpopular ones; not just the easily studied ones, but the ones nobody gets funded to study. We want to feel like we are educating students who feel passionately confident that they possess a distinctive perspective on family functioning that any agency, organization, governmental entity, or academic institution would find essential.

Just to be clear, I am not suggesting that there is anything wrong with our journals or for that matter the growing number of other outreach avenues we are pursuing. We have done a truly world-class job of putting "our stuff" out there, but the world continues to

change, as do families. We have to continue to improve how we reach the same audiences more effectively, and we have to develop new ways of reaching new audiences. That might call for new ways of thinking about the knowledge bases we currently have and continue to build. Is it enough to say, "We have great information on families in our journals—why don't they call us?" Maybe we have to ask, "Who else needs to see this information, and how can we get it to them?"

Resolution 1: Greater International Influence and Collaboration

I feel like a Johnny-come-lately to the topic of NCFR's need to become a more international organization. I realize that many of you have been working in this way before I went to China last spring and may be saying to yourselves "Bill, we've been doing that for years!" I hope you will be vocal supporters of NCFR continuing to reach out beyond our national boundaries to find and collaborate with colleagues internationally. I don't see our current "U.S.-centric" focus as an obstacle or failing; rather, I believe NCFR has an enormous opportunity to learn and grow—to become a truly international organization. We certainly have members from nations outside the United States. Family scholars and practitioners in other parts of the world also read our journals and are aware of the work of Family Scientists in the U.S. But I'm not sure how many of us are conversant with the work of Family Scientists in other parts of the world.

And I wonder if differences in theoretical conception and methodology sometimes get in the way of our seeing insightful evidence that might augment our own understanding of families. I suspect that many of our colleagues around the world have had to grapple with these issues as they read and use our journals. I do not believe it threatens the impressive body of knowledge the family field represents to be open to studying, teaching about, and practicing with families in new and possibly unfamiliar ways. I believe that inclusion and diversity, like international focus, may need to become more of an organizing principle that

President's Report continued on page 8

Thank You, 2016 Conference Sponsors!

Thanks to all who attended the 2016 NCFR Annual Conference and volunteered to help make it a success.

NCFR especially would like to acknowledge and thank our conference sponsor organizations for their generous financial support:

President's Reception

- ~ Wiley-Blackwell

Major-Session Sponsors

- ~ Auburn University—Theory Construction and Research Methodology (TCRM) Workshop
- ~ University of Illinois—Plenary
- ~ University of Minnesota—Plenary
- ~ University of Maryland—Plenary

Section Sponsors

- ~ Wilmington University—Education and Enrichment Section
- ~ The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society—Families and Health Section
- ~ Iowa State University—Family Policy Section
- ~ North Dakota State University—Family Therapy Section
- ~ Florida State University—International Section
- ~ University of Missouri—Research and Theory Section

Workshops, Special Events, and Services

- ~ National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families—Mentoring Lunch
- ~ Wheaton College Graduate School—Cyber Café
- ~ Montclair State University—The Gathering Place
- ~ Texas Tech University—Newcomers Welcome
- ~ University of Southern Mississippi—Affiliate Councils Workshop
- ~ *Journal of Family Theory & Review*—TCRM Workshop cosponsor
- ~ Harrington Park Press—refreshments host for GLBTSA Focus Group meeting
- ~ University of Nebraska-Lincoln—refreshments host for International Section meeting
- ~ Texas Woman's University—exhibits coffee break host

CFLE Reception

- ~ Florida State University—Gold sponsor
- ~ Kansas State University—Gold sponsor
- ~ Miami University Department of Family Science and Social Work—Gold sponsor

- ~ Still Learning, Inc.—Gold sponsor
- ~ University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service—Gold sponsor
- ~ University of Central Oklahoma—Gold sponsor
- ~ *Wisdom for Parents* book (Robert E. Keim, CFLE)—Gold sponsor
- ~ Deborah Gentry, CFLE—Silver sponsor
- ~ Kent State University, Kent and Stark Campuses—Silver sponsor
- ~ Michael Fleming, CFLE—Silver sponsor
- ~ Western Michigan University—Silver sponsor

- ~ University of Florida—Silver sponsor
- ~ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Human Development and Family Studies—Silver sponsor
- ~ University of Nevada, Reno HDFS—Silver sponsor
- ~ Debra L. Berke, CFLE—Bronze sponsor
- ~ Ouida Westney, CFLE—Bronze sponsor

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Taking Stock and Planning for the Future

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

As the end of the year approaches, we look back at our accomplishments, take stock, and begin to plan for the coming year. Below are brief updates on some of the larger projects finished this year and still under way at NCFR headquarters, as well as other notable news from 2016.

NCFR Website

The entire NCFR staff, led by Director of Membership and Marketing Allison Wickler, has been working on a rebuild of the NCFR website. Set to roll out in early 2017, the site will have a new look and a structure that reflects the usage data we have collected over several years on our current website. We have been able to determine which webpages are most and least accessed, and as a result we are able to design the website to better meet member needs.

NCFR Journals

New journal covers that reflect NCFR's new graphic design will debut with the first issues of 2017, and in the case of *Family Relations*, a new title. To continue to carve out a deeper identity for the discipline of Family Science, the "Studies" in the title will be replaced by "Science," making the new title *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Science*. (A more dramatic title change was dropped after we learned that one consequence of a complete title change would be the loss of citations in transferring from the old title to the new title.) This small but important title change will have no effect on future impact-factor calculations.

Policy

The staff has provided considerable support to the NCFR Board of Directors in its policy work, including the administration of a member survey on policy. Policy preconference workshops were held in conjunction with the 2015 and 2016 conferences, and progress continues on policy and research briefs under the editorial leadership of Dr. Joyce Ardititi.

Networking Tools

NCFR member interest in connecting with colleagues in meaningful ways around common research, practice, and professional

development goals has spurred technology developments to support online learning and online meetings and networking, as well as a robust online discussion group platform that NCFR is scheduled to roll out in early 2017. The online discussion groups will replace the email lists for sections, focus groups, and other groups. Stay tuned for more information about this transition.

Two examples of distance networking are our academic leadership conference calls organized by our Academic Administration and Leadership Focus Group, and the online Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Continuing Conversations, begun in response to CFLE interest in starting and managing a family life education business.

To continue to carve out a deeper identity for the discipline of Family Science, the "Studies" in the [Family Relations journal] title will be replaced by "Science."

Technology

Under the leadership of NCFR member Dr. Susan Walker, University of Minnesota, work is under way to determine how NCFR can provide professional development opportunities on using technology in family life education. And after several years of experimenting with online systems and apps to house annual conference program information, NCFR made the switch to a new app and a primarily electronic conference schedule format in 2016.

Zippy News

In an effort to increase the rate at which Zippy News—NCFR's weekly email newsletter—reaches its subscribers, we migrated to a new email marketing platform in the third quarter of 2016. Feedback on the value of Zippy was the impetus for adding new and easy ways to opt in to Zippy News delivery, roughly doubling the rate of new subscribers. Currently, more than 11,500 people interested in the family field subscribe to Zippy News.

NCFR Headquarters Location

Finally, work is under way to find a new home for NCFR headquarters. The current lease expires at the end of June 2017, and plans for the building do not support a lease renewal. As this issue of *Report* goes to press, we continue to explore options.

NCFR Leadership Transitions

In November, we welcomed two new members to the NCFR Board of Directors: Stephan M. Wilson, Ph.D., an NCFR Fellow who is dean of the College of Human Sciences and Regents Professor of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University; and Karen Benjamin Guzzo, Ph.D., an associate professor of sociology and associate director of the Center for Family and Demographic Research at Bowling Green State University. Transitioning off the board in November were Frank Fincham, Ph.D., Rachel Engler Jordan, Ph.D., and Hilary Rose, Ph.D. Those of us who worked closely with Drs. Fincham, Engler Jordan, and Rose will miss their wit, honesty, integrity, international perspectives, and sense of fun they brought to the board.

At the conclusion of 2016, the *Journal of Marriage and Family* (JMF) editorial office will move to Ohio State University under the skillful leadership of editor Kristi Williams, Ph.D. We thank Kelly Raley, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, for an outstanding five years of leadership in the role of JMF editor. Dr. Raley brought innovation to NCFR journals through the Early View initiative and worked with NCFR members to expand the qualitative research published in JMF.

Every volunteer leader is a gift to NCFR. We want to recognize the outgoing and incoming section and focus group chairs (ncfr.org/member-groups) and those serving on the board committees: Elections Council, Fellows Committee, Audit Committee, and Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

New Staff in 2016

As I reported in the fall 2016 issue of this magazine, Rebecca Luxenberg joined the

Executive Review continued on page 7

Nominate and Vote continued from page 2

of the Student Award Committees, has several Annual Conference responsibilities, and assists in networking students and new professionals.

Elections Council Members, 2018–2021 (2 Positions Open)

It is the responsibility of the Elections Council to prepare a slate of nominees for officers and members of the Board of Directors, Students and New Professionals board representative, Students and New Professionals program representative, Fellows Committee, Elections Council, and Inclusion and Diversity Committee positions, and to ensure that the policies regarding recruitment as provided by the NCFR Bylaws and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures are followed.

Fellows Committee, 2018–2021 (3 Positions Open)

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

Inclusion and Diversity Committee Member-at-Large, 2018–2021

IDC members-at-large assist the IDC in responding to the needs and desires of NCFR members. The members-at-large will help the committee send updates on the work of the IDC via web postings, *NCFR Report* articles and other effective venues of communication. The members-at-large will provide information and suggestions to the IDC, ensuring that information is documented via a report.

Annual Conference Program Chair-Elect, 2018–2019, Program Chair for 2020 Conference

The NCFR conference program chair is appointed by the NCFR Board of Directors; however, the Elections Council is interested in your suggestions for potential program chair appointees. Please feel free to suggest names along with your other nominations.

Again, we encourage you to become involved in the leadership of our organization. Submit nominations using our nomination webform at ncfr.org/elections-nomination-webform. For additional information, please visit ncfr.org/elections. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31, 2017.

In Memoriam

Blaine R. Porter, 1922–2015

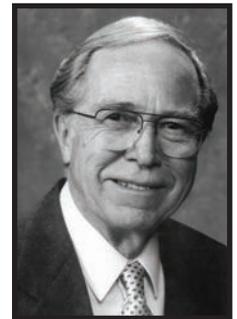
Longtime NCFR member and NCFR Fellow Blaine R. Porter passed away on Aug. 4, 2015, at age 93.

Dr. Porter was an NCFR member since 1950 and was named an NCFR Fellow in 2006. He also was NCFR Board of Directors president in 1963–1964. He was part of a committee to consolidate NCFR's sections in the early 1960s, and during his presidency he established a special committee to explore opportunities for promoting family life education.

Dr. Porter developed his passion for teaching as a flight instructor during World War II. After the war, he received bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University and a doctoral degree from Cornell University, later joining the faculty at Iowa State University. Dr. Porter then took the position of chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Relations at Brigham

Young University (BYU), where he was selected as Professor of the Year in 1963. He spent time as a visiting professor and Fulbright scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science before returning to BYU as dean of the College of Family Living.

Dr. Porter retired from BYU in 1987. After his retirement, Dr. Porter and his wife founded the nonprofit organization Families for Children International, which did work in Ghana, and supported additional humanitarian work in Latin America and Europe. *



Blaine R. Porter

In Memoriam

Alan James Booth, 1935–2015

Longtime NCFR member and NCFR Fellow Alan James Booth passed away on Dec. 23, 2015, at age 80, after a long illness.

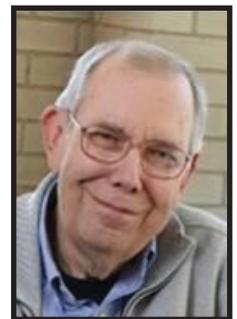
Dr. Booth, whose work in sociology and family is known worldwide, was an NCFR member since 1978 and was named an NCFR Fellow as part of the first class of NCFR Fellows in 1998. He served as editor of NCFR's *Journal of Marriage and the Family* from 1986 to 1991, and he was conference chair for the 2002 NCFR Annual Conference.

Dr. Booth's distinguished career in sociology began in 1966, when he became a member of the sociology faculty at the University of Nebraska. He joined Penn State as a sociology faculty member in 1991, and retired from there in 2014. In addition to authoring more than 100 articles and several books during his career, Dr. Booth established and for many years organized an annual symposium on family, bringing together scholars and

policymakers from around the United States. He advised and mentored many students who went on to successful careers.

Among his other accolades, in 2002 Dr. Booth received the Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association's Family Section, and in 1995 received Penn State's Faculty Scholar Medal in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

In addition to his family, Dr. Booth loved his work, jazz and classical music, travel and trips with his daughters, and Penn State women's volleyball. *



Alan James Booth



Meeting the Needs of Family Life Education Practitioners

Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE, Director of Family Life Education, dawncassidy@ncfr.org

"I am exploring opportunities to provide independent family life education programming, services, or consultation within the community. Are there any resources you would recommend for getting started in this area?"

This question, posted on the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) email list by CFLE Jenell Kelly earlier in 2016, prompted a tremendous response from CFLEs willing to share their experiences, and an almost equal number echoing Jenell's request for information. It quickly became clear that she had hit a "sweet spot." CFLEs were very interested in

NCFR is in an excellent position to enable family professionals to share their knowledge and assist one another in serving families.

learning about how to start and run their own family life education business. This conversation was the impetus for a new opportunity NCFR now offers to Certified Family Life Educators—free online "Continuing Conversations" for CFLEs—as well as a four-part webinar series on the topic.

The first CFLE Continuing Conversation was held on June 28 and provided CFLEs with an opportunity to participate in a real-time, online conversation with other CFLEs. Mara Briere and Naketta Lowery, two CFLEs with expertise in running their own business, moderated the conversation. One of the benefits of certification is the opportunity to connect and learn from others in the same field. NCFR has provided opportunities for networking via the CFLE newsletter, *Network*; at the CFLE reception at the NCFR conference; and through the CFLE email list. However, the online CFLE Continuing Conversations provides a new and improved way for CFLEs to connect and share.

As a result of the email discussion and the following CFLE Continuing Conversation,

it became clear that CFLEs were hungry for formal education about starting and running their own business. In response, NCFR introduced a webinar series held in late 2016, which continues into early 2017. Response to the webinars has been very positive. They have provided a way for CFLEs with expertise and experience to share their knowledge about the ins and outs of starting and running a family life education business, including consideration of nonprofit versus for-profit structure, funding, content development, and business planning. An accompanying free CFLE Continuing Conversation held approximately one week after each webinar allows for further discussion on the topic and provides another opportunity for CFLEs to learn from one another. All CFLE Continuing Conversations and webinars are archived, and are therefore accessible after the initial live offering.

The four-part webinar series (each webinar also can be accessed individually) only

scratches the surface of the services that NCFR provides to family life educator practitioners. Certainly there will be opportunities for additional practice-oriented webinars in the coming year. The online Professional Resource Library gives family life educators access to information on books, curricula, websites, and more, all searchable by content area. NCFR's director of research and policy education, Jennifer Crosswhite, and I are working with members to expand the number of resource collections on the NCFR website. A longer-term goal is to provide online learning modules relevant to each of the 10 family life content areas (and eventually a number of content subareas) that could be used as professional development or as a resource for those studying for the CFLE exam.

NCFR is in an excellent position to enable family professionals to share their knowledge and assist one another in serving families. If you have suggestions for how NCFR can best meet your needs, please email me. ✨

NCFR Report: A Member Forum

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 *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.

Executive Review continued from page 5

NCFR staff in July as our new director of finance. In September, Brian Boese was hired as our new manager of communications, the position previously held by Allison Wickler. Welcome to both new staff members!

In Memoriam

We lost some Family Science icons in the past year and some very dear NCFR members: Joan Jurich, Murray Straus, Alan Booth, and John Sorenson. If you know of others, please contact the NCFR office. We have a place on the NCFR website to honor members who have passed away (ncfr.org/news/memoriam).

Happy New Year!

As we come to the close of another good year for NCFR, we wish you all a joyous, healthy, and fulfilling 2017. See you in Orlando next November! ✨

President's Report continued from page 3

we consider in all the work we do. It is important not only because of what we might need to know about others, but also because of what those others might be able to help us understand about ourselves.

Resolution 2: More (and More Effective) Mentoring

Again, I know many of you take mentoring very seriously, and I hope you feel the appreciation of your students and others who benefit from your commitment to it. I believe mentoring is particularly important in the current climate of organizational change, in which mentoring may not seem as highly valued or rewarding as publishing, grant winning, or other administrative duties. But it has been my experience in big and small organizations, in the public and private sectors, and in business and academia that organizations that pay attention to and

nurture newcomers grow and do well in the long run. And it's not just about telling those entering the organization what you think (or how they should think); it's about giving them the confidence to explore and experience the organization on their own.

It might sound trite for me to say this as president of NCFR now, but the reason I have felt so committed to this organization is the mentoring I received as a newbie. In fact, that mentoring started even before I joined NCFR or began attending annual conferences. And this encouragement wasn't just from my advisers and the professors at my school (although that was a huge factor). It was from scholars at all stages of their careers around the world whom I met in and out of my graduate program who spoke about their enthusiasm for the field and for NCFR. Of course, when I finally got to a con-

ference, my mentors introduced me to the NCFR members they knew. What impressed me was that faculty from other programs or government also took time to say hello, as did family scholars whose work I had read. I felt empowered to ask questions in sessions and to send emails to folks I had met at the conference throughout the year, to share ideas on common interests. It was in these early (formative) experiences with mentors and events like the conference that I was bonded to NCFR and its mission.

I'd be interested in hearing what you think about these wishes and resolutions. What are your hopes for the organization? What are you planning to do this year that will make a difference?

In the meantime, stay well, and have a safe and wonderful start to 2017!

Bill Allen

Congratulations to Our New Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs) designated between July 1 and Sept. 30, 2016. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alaska

Ashley Jean Kawashima

Colorado

Krista Nichole Hein

Florida

Lois A Casey FULL
Shelby G Gilbert
Cathrine Elizabeth Reed

Illinois

Cassandra E Bachochin
Allison J Carr

Indiana

Cheyenne Rae Nichols
Rose Marie Lowery

Iowa

Valerie Ann Cumming
Alexandra Elaine Stewart
Erin Marie Wilson

Kansas

Kimmery Cherise Newsom FULL
Monica Cattau FULL
Erika Elise Just
Megan Schoendaler
Kelsey Bryann Johnson

Kentucky

Sarah Taylor Vanover FULL

Louisiana

S. Greg Thompson FULL
Christine Kudrecki
Phyllis Mary Friddle

Maryland

Barbara Henschel FULL

Michigan

Kenneth Gillotte
Zelma Massey-Newkirk
Leslie M Kusek
Jessica Marie Jarvis

Minnesota

Silvia Alvarez de Davila FULL

Missouri

Kyleigh Donn Sullivan

Nevada

Jennifer Ann Mortensen FULL

New Jersey

Colleen Sims FULL

New York

Nicole Palumbo
Ilana Addison Moskowitz
Rebecca W Heller
Robin R Das

North Carolina

Yuliana Rodriguez
Maya P Lewis
Karen F Randle
Angela Faith Lewis

North Dakota

Elizabeth Haas

Ohio

Alison Sue Okenka
Bethany Ann Skees
Melanie Koch

Pennsylvania

Kiersen A Hoffacker FULL
Debbie Petra Smith
Ashley L Bittner

Tennessee

Maria Elena Noya Cortez

Texas

Angelina Marie Rodriguez FULL
Courtney E Bowland FULL
Nicole Morris
Beatrice Lillian Dudley
Kathleen Michelle Horan
Kristina Nicole Higgins
Lydia Abigail Williams
Crystal L Jackson
Cara Nicole Perkins
Aleshia Nicole Alexander

Utah

Julie K Nelson FULL
Kristen Leigh Stone
Christin Watkins

Virginia

Michelle Ziska
Lilian Vanessa Artica

Washington

Alexis Sparkuhl

Wisconsin

Sarah Buchanan

NCFR and the United Nations: Part 1

Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Research and Policy Education, jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org



The 2016 NCFR Annual Conference was full of connections to the United Nations. Conference Program Chair Lee Ann De Reus used the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, and the International Section's special session related those goals directly to Family Science.

Did you know, though, that NCFR has been involved with the United Nations since the late 1940s, at least indirectly through the International Union of Family Organizations? NCFR currently holds a nongovernmental organization (NGO) consultative status with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This consultative status provides opportunities for our representatives to engage in United Nations events and present family research. Drs. Mihaela Robila and Bahira Sherif Trask are NCFR's current UN representatives. They follow Dr. Marilyn Bensman, who began as the UN representative in 1992, and Dr. Elizabeth Force, who was the representative for 31 years prior to Dr. Bensman. Several other NCFR members have been involved with the United Nations over time.

In this column and my next column, NCFR's current UN representatives write about their involvement with the organization. Here, Dr. Robila, NCFR's main representative, shares her research on family functioning and family policies in the context of her work with the United Nations. She also provides a list of UN resources to learn more about the family-relevant divisions of the organization. Dr. Trask will share her work and how it relates to the United Nations in the spring issue of *NCFR Report*.

I hope you enjoy, and please contact any of us with questions.

Family Policies and United Nations

Mihaela Robila, Ph.D., CFLE, Professor and Deputy Chair, Human Development and Family Studies, Queens College, City University of New York

The thing I like the most about living in New York City is its cultural diversity. With about 37% of its residents being born outside the United States (census.gov), New York City presents itself as one of the most diverse cities in the U.S. and globally, with people coming from all over the world. The city's

great cultural diversity is also reflected in its educational institutions. Queens College of the City University of New York, where I am professor of human development and family studies, is located in Queens, the most diverse county in the U.S., with students coming from 150 countries. For somebody like me, with scholarship and interests focused on cultural diversity, there is no better place to live than New York City! It is truly a privilege and a great learning opportunity to have a chance to interact with people from so many different places.

From my own cultural background, I have a strong research interest in family functioning, immigration, and family policies in Eastern Europe that has extended to family functioning and family policies across the globe. For example, I edited the *Handbook on Family*

Collaborating with the United Nations has been a great experience and has provided wonderful learning opportunities.

Policies Across the Globe (2014), for which I invited colleagues from 28 countries to write chapters on family policy development, implementation, and evaluation in their countries. Each chapter includes sections on socioeconomic and political contexts and their impact on families, family demographics, and family policy developments and challenges. Because of my research, I received two Fulbright Specialist Awards from the U.S. Department of State (2012 and November 2016). I also was elected a fellow in three of the American Psychological Association divisions between 2011 and 2013: International, Family Psychology, and Child and Family Policy.

Another thing I like about living in New York City is the opportunity to collaborate with great programs and institutions, such as the United Nations. As an international scholar and immigrant myself, I was fascinated with how the United Nations works and the projects it undertakes. Right after becoming

a faculty member at Queens College in 2003, I contacted the UN Focal Point on the Family in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The Family Program is one of the areas in the Social Integration Branch, in the Division of Social Policy and Development (DSPD) in UNDESA at the UN Secretariat. Soon after, I was invited by the Family Program to participate in several projects focused on family policies in Eastern Europe. Since then, I have continuously collaborated with the UN Family Program on family policies at a broader, global level.



While attending events at the United Nations, I learned about the UN Committee on the Family (ngofamilyny.org), which includes many NGOs, including NCFR. At that time, NCFR was represented by Dr. Marilyn Bensman. I met Marilyn at the 2008 NCFR Annual Conference, which led to me becoming an alternate representative to the United Nations and, in 2009, NCFR's main representative. In this capacity I participate in different meetings at the United Nations, act as a liaison between NCFR and the United

Family Science continued on page 10

Save the Date for the 2017 NCFR Conference

On the heels of our 2016 conference in Minneapolis in November, we're already well into the planning for the 2017 NCFR Annual Conference, to be held on Nov. 15–18 in Orlando, Florida.

In fact, you can already review the call for proposals (ncfr.org/2017-call-for-proposals) and start thinking about your proposal submission. The online system for proposal submissions will open in January.

For our 2017 event, Conference Program Chair Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Ph.D., has selected "Families as Catalysts: Shaping Neurons, Neighborhoods, and Nations" as the theme, with three goals in mind:

1. To highlight research that not only considers the ways in which broader social

contexts influence families but also turns the tide to consider how families serve as catalysts for healthy children, neighborhoods, communities, and societies

2. To feature evidence-based best practices that promote family empowerment and human connections that shape the experiences of families at multiple levels
3. To critically examine policy that views families as "recipients" of societal support and to propose new approaches that recognize the role families play in building stronger, healthier children, schools, neighborhood, workplaces, and communities

According to Dr. Perry-Jenkins, much dialogue and rhetoric about families today

focuses on the economic and social "costs" of families—for example, the costs of basic family needs such as child care, health care, schooling, parental leave, and elder care that are at the core of social and political debate.

"At the 2017 NCFR conference, the goal is to challenge scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to reframe the narrative on families and ask: How do family relations and functions advance the lives of children and adults, as well as build stronger neighborhoods, communities, schools, workplaces, states, and nations?" says Dr. Perry-Jenkins.

Find preliminary details about the conference at ncfr.org/ncfr-2017, and review the call for proposals to start planning your submission! ✨

Family Science *continued from page 9*

Nations, and organize sessions at the NCFR Annual Conference that emphasize the UN agenda. For example:

~ In 2014, for the 20th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family (IYF), I organized a symposium at the 2013 NCFR Annual Conference with Renata Kaczmarek, United Nations Focal Point on the Family.

~ In 2014, I collaborated with Diane Cushman (NCFR executive director), Renata Kaczmarek, and Ignacio Socias (International Federation for Family Development) to organize the North America UN Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in Mexico City, Mexico, along with other stakeholders from around the world, for the 20th anniversary of the IYF. Two additional NCFR members, Drs. Bahira Sherif Trask and Linda Burton, participated in the meeting. The final report and expert papers from this meeting were used to write the 2014 Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the 20th anniversary of the IYF.

~ In 2016, I presented an overview of NCFR as the premier professional organization for the multidisciplinary understanding of families at the EGM in New York titled

"Family Policies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda." The presentation underlined NCFR activities that inform policy, including publication of peer-reviewed journals, the annual conference, research and policy briefs, and NCFR's engagement and resources: focus groups, workshops, mentoring, and the Certified Family Life Educator credential, among others.

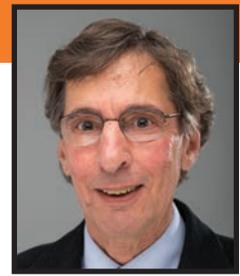
Collaborating with the United Nations has been a great experience and has provided wonderful learning opportunities. There are several UN agencies and programs that might be of interest to NCFR members, which are listed below. Their websites contain a plethora of information about different topics, meetings, articles, policy briefs, and videos.

Resources

- ~ *UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs* (un.org/development/desa/en/)
 - *Division for Social Policy and Development* (un.org/development/desa/dspd/)—family, youth, aging, disability, poverty, social integration, indigenous people, civil society
 - *Population Division* (un.org/development/desa/en/about/desa-divisions/

population.html)—fertility and family planning, population policy, migration

- ~ *UN Women* (unwomen.org)—leadership and political participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, peace and security, HIV/AIDS, sustainable development, humanitarian action
- ~ *UN Population Fund (UNFPA)* (unfpa.org)—sexual and reproductive health, young people (e.g., comprehensive sexuality education, adolescent pregnancy), human rights and gender equality, population matters (e.g., aging, migration)
- ~ *UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)* (unicef.org)—child protection and social inclusion, child survival, education, gender equality, emergencies and humanitarian action
- ~ *UN Development Program (UNDP)* (undp.org)—sustainable development, democratic governance and peace building, climate and disaster resilience
- ~ *UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)* (unhcr.org)—advocacy, coordinating assistance, asylum and migration, ending statelessness ✨



Editorial Decision Letters

Robert Milardo, Ph.D., University of Maine, rhd360@maine.edu

Note from the editor: With the publication of Dr. Milardo's final Crafting Scholarship column for NCFR Report, we would like to express our gratitude for his contributions to the publication over the past two years. His insights and expertise on the topic of scholarly writing are invaluable, and the way he relays those insights is engaging and accessible. Thank you, Dr. Milardo!

In this article we consider an editor's responsibility in writing decision letters to authors, as well as the content and tone of letters that are most apt to be helpful to authors in guiding their later response to reviewers and preparation of subsequent revisions. We consider the issue of hostile reviews and how authors might respond to them, and more generally establish realistic expectations of the review process.

Even the most experienced and talented authors on occasion find a less-than-enthusiastic response to their work, and the occasional rejections ensue.

Writing Decision Letters

Making well-reasoned decisions on manuscripts is by far the most important and difficult element of an editor's duties. Ideally, editors will compose informative and instructive decision letters to authors; this is not always possible. In the best of circumstances, the most informed decisions are based on the recommendations of the reviews as well as the editor's reading of a manuscript. Not all editors have the time to carefully read manuscripts, especially if they are receiving multiple submissions per day, in which case they may rely entirely on the commentary of reviewers. In some instances, I did as well. If the reviewers are in agreement that a manuscript is inappropriate for the journal, and if their concerns appear reasonable, in the interest of time management, I am not inclined to read the manuscript. In these cases, my decision letters tend to be brief; I rely on

the comments of the reviewers to inform authors. In nearly all other cases, I prefer to read manuscripts and often include comments directly in the manuscript that I then share with authors.

Whether editors are able to carefully read a manuscript or not, our responsibility is to delineate, prioritize, and summarize the issues that need to be addressed. Decision letters ideally provide a road map for authors in shaping their future revisions, a road map that is rooted in a clear understanding of the manuscript and the comments of the reviewers. Authors certainly appreciate the service and often mention clarity as well as timeliness, helpfulness, and demonstrated respect in rating the quality of service from editorial offices (Adler & Liyanarachchi, 2011). Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan comments directly on the issues of clarity and helpfulness:

I think a good letter from the editor is very helpful in terms of summarizing what the key issues are. If I can get a clear picture of what the editor and reviewers think are key issues that need to be addressed, that can help me with the revision, or if it is a reject, I usually revise the manuscript before I send it someplace else because I feel like the feedback is valuable. It doesn't mean I am going to take every suggestion, but especially if there is some consensus and the editor agrees, I am not going to send that paper out to another journal without addressing those issues.

Anisa Zvonkovic also commented on the importance of decision letters from editors. I asked her what made for a positive or helpful experience in the review process. She recounted a recent experience in having her work reviewed:

In a recent submission one of the things that was helpful was that it was really clear what needed to be changed and what didn't. When the action editor provides specific guidelines, I find that really helpful. I usually do a document where I kind of summarize and bunch up similar comments [of the reviewers],

kind of a content analysis. Then I look at what the editor says to see if there is some direction. So definitely, if the action editor provides clear guidance, that is really important. I don't know if I ever got reviews where the reviewers agreed on everything, usually there is kind of an outlier. So it's helpful if an editor can highlight where a problem came from. An editor doesn't really have to say how to solve an issue but some guidance is nice.

While detailed decision letters are time consuming and sometimes difficult to write, editors may be inclined to provide additional or more detailed feedback when time permits, especially with new professionals. I asked Harry Reis if he provided added commentary in his decision letters to new professionals. "Absolutely! Even today when I write reviews I frequently will write it in a more detailed way if I know it is a young author or a less established colleague."

In my experience, authors rarely ask for additional feedback, but when they do I am happy to provide it, with a catch or two. First, I have to have the time to do so, which means a reasonably manageable workload at that particular moment, and second, the author has to demonstrate a minimal degree of competence and seriousness of intent. If a manuscript is lacking in fundamental competencies, the commentary of an editor is not likely to replace the need for additional training and effort.

An editor's job is far easier when there is considerable agreement between reviewers, when they identify similar issues needing attention; somewhat less so when they raise different issues; and decidedly challenging when the reviews are disparate. In the latter



case, editors may not always be entirely certain how to proceed or whether to favor one set of suggestions offered by one reviewer or an entirely different set of suggestions offered by another. At the very least, editors need to acknowledge whatever differences exist, offer direction or compromise positions if possible, and otherwise let the author establish priorities and so argue his or her case. An editor's failing to acknowledge significant differences

Accolades for Crafting Scholarship and author Robert Milardo, Ph.D.

Choice magazine, published by the American Library Association, has named Dr. Robert Milardo's book *Crafting Scholarship in the Behavioral and Social Sciences* an



Outstanding Academic Title for 2015, an honor given to fewer than 3% of books published each year. The following is a quote from the review:

Milardo has written a refreshing, inspiring, and readable take on what has typically been a dry, mechanical, and private process.

NCFR is indebted to Dr. Milardo for sharing his ideas and insights on writing through this continuing article series, "Crafting Scholarship," based on his book. As an NCFR Fellow and the founding editor of the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, he has more than 35 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic writing.

Dr. Milardo's book provides a comprehensive look at writing, editing, and reviewing processes in academic publishing (Fall 2014, Routledge). It is available at www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138787841/

in the commentary of reviewers and provide guidance is one of the most common complaints of authors (Cooper, 2009).

Hostile Reviews

In some instances, editors are further challenged by off-tone or hostile reviews. On the one hand, we don't want to antagonize reviewers by chastising them for inappropriate tone. On the other hand, authors deserve to be treated with respect, and our goal is to encourage the production of quality contributions. An editor may decide not to use a hostile review, but the choice brings its own set of issues. Editors do not want to interfere with the peer-review process, especially when an off-tone review also includes useful substantive comments, which they often do. Negotiating off-tone reviews means separating the unbecoming chaff from the wholesome wheat by delineating the useful criticisms from the less useful, and clearly communicating this with authors. Just as midstream kudos can service generativity in writing reviews, an editor can remark on the current and potential importance of a manuscript and thereby encourage authors.

Regardless of the tone of a decision letter or review, authors often, if not typically, find decision letters and accompanying reviews disturbing. Decision letters and their accompanying reviews commonly bring to bear an emotional response from authors, and editors need to be mindful of that response. Hostile reviews are simply not helpful. In my own experience, hostile reviewers, even when their reviews are otherwise skillful, are not apt to be invited to the next party.

Giving Feedback to Authors

In the case of a manuscript that is judged to be inappropriate for a journal, how much feedback can an author expect? Ideally, a decision letter will at minimum state the primary reason or reasons for a rejection, but in fact I am not sure that is always the case. Rejection letters are most likely not terribly informative, and authors need to attend to the comments of the reviewers. Although an editor may prefer writing helpful and informative rejection letters, the difficulty and time required to do so is prohibitive.

My favorite decision letter, received after I submitted one of my own articles to a journal, read: "No thanks. The editor." The letter

could not have been more exacting. It was hand written, which added to the personal touch, and yet without exclamation points, I thought a bit disingenuous.

The *Journal of Family Theory & Review* rejects in the range of 3% to 5% of submissions without review. These are nearly always manuscripts that are clearly inappropriate for the journal. For instance, the journal does not publish empirical reports or case studies, and such submissions are rejected outright with a simple note stating the reason for doing so.

In some cases, a manuscript is submitted that an editor may feel is very unlikely to engender a favorable review. This situation presents a dilemma. On the one hand, I do not wish to rely too heavily on my own preferences and thereby supplant the peer-review process, and on the other hand, I am concerned about the workload of reviewers and do not wish to overburden them. Occasionally, I will reject a manuscript that appears entirely unlikely to receive favorable reviews, but it is decidedly rare.

For some journals the sheer volume of manuscripts received prevents accepting all or even most manuscripts for review and some triage is required. For instance, *Psychological Science* receives about 3,000 submissions per year, and about 66% are rejected without review by the editor and deputy editors. The *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Family Relations* reject about 15% and 4% to 7%, respectively, of new manuscripts without review. Incidentally, in a survey of more than 3,000 reviewers across multiple disciplines, 68% of respondents thought



rejecting manuscripts without review was appropriate (Sense About Science, 2010). A triage system is necessary for some journals given the volume of submissions and the work needed from editors and reviewers to complete comprehensive reviews, but it is not entirely in keeping with the objectives of peer review. Triage practices need to be carefully designed, and editors need to be

accountable for their decisions while at the same time mindful of overburdening reviewers.

Heavenly Decision Letters

Dear Author,

As you will note, the reviewers believe your recently submitted manuscript is brilliant and I am inclined to agree. I am accepting your manuscript without revision.

Best wishes,

The Editor

This sort of letter will never happen, at least given the current state of reality, but perhaps it may in an alternate universe. Nearly all of the editors and authors I've spoken to indicate an outright acceptance without revision is very rare and has never happened to them personally. My colleagues occasionally share stories of people they know, or people they have heard about, who may have on some occasion actually had a paper accepted outright. I am inclined to think that some professionals have the ability to visit alternate universes where heavenly events occasionally happen.

The former and very experienced editor Julie Fitness laughed heartily when I asked her if she had ever accepted a manuscript outright without revision. She then went on to explain how a request for a revision and resubmission is a distinct opportunity and one to be welcomed:

People shouldn't be offended by being asked to revise a paper, or upset by it at all. Put your emotions to one side. And in fact, it is so good to get feedback. If you get a revise and resubmit that is a fantastic outcome. It means that you've got a piece of work that people can see worth in and value, and now you are going to start polishing and make it something beautiful.

Earthly Experience

Even the most experienced and talented authors on occasion find a less-than-enthusiastic response to their work, and the occasional rejections ensue. Some authors suggest that this is common experience and to be expected. "The really successful authors of social work research articles have something in common: they all have had their work rejected at various points in time"

(Thyer, 2008, p. 72). In the field of economics, Gans and Shepherd (1994) similarly reported that nearly all leading scholars report instances of having their work rejected: "In the big leagues, even the best hitters regularly strike out" (p. 165). They go on to acknowledge that some senior economists report no instances of having their work rejected but then discount their experience by noting that these are players who submit few journal articles, preferring to publish books.

Among the senior scholars I interviewed the results are mixed. Some very prolific scholars report never having their work rejected and some do. Nonetheless, although an initial rejection is disappointing and can lead authors to question the value of their work, the vast majority find publication elsewhere (Belcher, 2009).

More important, authors can increase the probability of favorable outcomes in a number of ways by selecting appropriate journals; fully understanding the review process, including the issues editors and reviewers typically attend to and consider critical; and soliciting pre-reviews by trusted colleagues before a formal journal submission.

Less common are instances when an invited revision undergoes a new round of review and is subsequently rejected. I recall a case where an author submitted three revisions of a paper, each with substantial changes in response to the reviewers' and editor's recommendations. The third revision was sent out to the original reviewers, and again the reviewers were calling for additional revision. It was not that the authors were unresponsive to the earlier rounds of review, but rather they just hadn't gone far enough. Once the critical reviews of the third revision arrived, I had to make the very difficult decision of whether to issue yet another invitation to revise the paper. I decided that however well intended the authors, they were simply not making sufficient progress, and so rejected the manuscript.

Rejecting revisions is among the most difficult decisions for editors and to be avoided if possible. Issuing an invitation for a revision is a major investment of scarce resources, and authors rightfully have an expectation of a high probability of seeing their work eventually accepted. This is not always the case.

Revisions are rejected for several reasons. Two common circumstances are situations in which reviewers believe an author has not sufficiently addressed the issues raised in an earlier round of review, or the revision may in itself raise new concerns for the reviewers and editor. A third scenario, and one more difficult to contend with, is a situation in which the reviewers identify concerns in the second round of review that they failed to mention in the first round but could have.

Another point of concern, and matter of fairness, is the assignment of reviewers to revisions. Typically editors try to use some of the original reviewers. That's not always possible. Adding a new reviewer is sometimes required by necessity because one or more of the original reviewers is unavailable. In addition, an editor might add a new reviewer to provide a fresh perspective and reading of a difficult manuscript, or because a particular brand of expertise was absent on the first round. Editors must balance the issue of fairness and the reasonable expectations of

Crafting Scholarship continued on page 19

Letters to the Editor

You may submit letters to the editor to *NCFR Report* on topics and activities relevant to NCFR member interests. The following guidelines apply:

- ~ Only letters submitted by members will be accepted.
- ~ Length is limited to 250 words; letters may be edited for space and clarity.
- ~ Letters must be signed and include author contact information; submissions are verified.
- ~ Letters that are deemed libelous, malicious, or otherwise inappropriate will not be published.

Email letters to the editor to:

brianboese@ncfr.org

Or mail to:

NCFR
Attn: NCFR Report
1201 West River Parkway, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring

Raeann R. Hamon

Raeann R. Hamon is the 2016 recipient of the Felix Berardo Scholarship Award, which is given to an NCFR member whose work has been noted for excellence in mentoring one or more junior colleagues.

Dr. Hamon is a professor of Family Science and gerontology and chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) at Messiah College in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hamon, a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE), earned her Ph.D. and graduate certificate in gerontology from Virginia Tech. She teaches family course work and advises more than 30 undergraduate Family Science students each year, and readily includes many undergraduates within the HDFS program in

her research and writing projects. Her research is related to intergenerational relationships, families in later life, Bahamian families, issues related to the discipline of Family Science, and teaching pedagogy in Family Science.

Felix Berardo, the namesake of this award, was a beloved professor at the University of Florida who went beyond expectations in his mentoring of many students who became leaders in the family field. ✨



Raeann R. Hamon

Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award

Emma G. Hooper

Emma G. Hooper is the 2016 recipient of the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award, which funds the best dissertation proposal submitted by a doctoral candidate in Family Science.

Ms. Hooper is a doctoral candidate in the human development program at the Ohio State University, with a specialization in couple and family therapy. She sees individual, couple, and family clients at the university's Couple and Family Therapy Clinic and the Schoenbaum Family Center, and she teaches and conducts research. For her dissertation, Ms. Hooper is developing and piloting an emotion-centered family therapy intervention for depressed mothers and their young children.

In a letter nominating Ms. Hooper, Dr. Xin Feng, her adviser of five years, writes: "Emma combines high intellectual aptitude, a remarkable capacity for critical thinking and strong dedication to research and clinical work. She is also highly effective in oral communication of complex research ideas. Impressively, she has twice received the first prize in the Education and Human Ecology category at the Hayes Graduate Research Forum." ✨



Emma G. Hooper

Feldman Outstanding Research Proposal for Research in Family Policy Award

Woosang Hwang

Woosang Hwang is the 2016 recipient of the Feldman Outstanding Research Proposal for Research in Family Policy award, which recognizes a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to family policy studies, particularly in the areas of gender and women's issues or poverty.

Mr. Hwang is a doctoral candidate in the

Department of Human Development and Family Science at Syracuse University. His primary research interests are low-fertility and aging-population issues. Specifically, he is interested in how the Family and Medical Leave Act affects second-birth intentions among dual-earner couples.

Within NCFR, Mr. Hwang was selected as a Feldman Travel Award recipient in 2015 and

Margaret E. Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award

Sharon M. Ballard

Sharon M. Ballard is the 2016 recipient of the Margaret E. Arcus Award, which recognizes an NCFR member who has made significant contributions to the field of family life education through research, theory, publication, practice, program development, and/or training.

Dr. Ballard is in her 17th year at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, where she is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Science. Dr. Ballard has been a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) since 1998 and was a founding member of the CFLE Advisory Board. She was awarded the CFLE Special Recognition Award in 2012.

Dr. Ballard's primary research interest is family life education programming, particularly parent education and sexuality education. She has published more than 40 journal articles and book chapters, including her co-edited book *Family Life Education with Diverse Populations*, and has given more than 60 state, national, and international presentations.

Margaret E. Arcus, the namesake of this award, made remarkable contributions to family life education during her career. She helped create the NCFR Certified Family Life Educator program, setting standards for the field. ✨



Sharon M. Ballard



Woosang Hwang

Issues in Aging Focus Group Award recipient in 2016. He is a member of several NCFR sections.

Harold and Margaret Feldman, the namesakes of this award, were pioneers in the field of family policy. ✨

Reuben Hill Award

Marisa Young, Jean E. Wallace, and Alicia J. Polachek

Marisa Young, Jean E. Wallace, and Alicia J. Polachek are the 2016 recipients of the Reuben Hill Award, which is given to the author(s) of an outstanding article or book that combines theory and methodology to analyze and interpret a significant family issue. Their article is titled "Gender Differences in Perceived Domestic Task Equity: A Study of Professionals."

Dr. Young is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at McMaster University and an early career fellow at the Work-Family Research Network. Her current research examines the work-family interface and gender differences in paid and unpaid

labor, and she also researches the intersection of work, family, and residential neighborhoods.

Dr. Wallace is a professor of sociology and adjunct professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include work-life balance and the work-family interface; job stress and coping strategies; mental health and wellness; mentoring and professional relationships; coworker and spousal support; and how statuses such as gender, genera-

tion, and parenthood are relevant to these experiences.

Ms. Polachek holds a master's degree in sociology from the University of Calgary and is a senior research associate at the W21C Research and Innovation Centre at the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine. Her research interests include the work-family interface and professionals' well-being. ✨



Marisa Young



Jean E. Wallace



Alicia J. Polachek

Jessie Bernard Outstanding Research Proposal From a Feminist Perspective Award

Shawn Mendez

Shawn Mendez is the 2016 recipient of the Jessie Bernard Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective Award, which is given to a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excel-

lence in research and potential contribution to feminist scholarship. Her paper is titled "Parenting Processes in Mixed Race LGBT Parent Families of Color: Racial Socialization and Queer Socialization."

Ms. Mendez is a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, working under the supervision of Dr. Ra-

mona Faith Oswald. She is a member of the planning committee for the annual LGBTQ Research Symposium, and an instructor in the Department of Human Development & Family Studies. Her research program focuses on the ways that race, sexuality, gender, and class are interrelated, negotiated, and context dependent. Her dissertation project addresses the relative dearth of research about racial and sexual minorities by focusing on the processes of racial and queer socialization in mixed race LGBT-parent families and LGBT-parent families of color.

Jessie Bernard, the namesake of the award, is a former NCFR Board of Directors member and a pioneer in the field of feminist family studies. ✨



Shawn Mendez

John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo Dissertation Award

Diamond Y. Bravo

Diamond Y. Bravo is the 2016 recipient of the John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo Dissertation Award, which provides support for the recipient to complete an approved doctoral dissertation with a focus on issues affecting ethnic minority families.

Dr. Bravo recently completed her doctoral degree in the Family and Human Development doctoral program in the Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University. (Her dissertation was still in progress at the time the award was given.)

In her nominating letter for Dr. Bravo, Dr. Adriana J. Umaña-Taylor stated: "Ms. Bravo has an impressive record of academic and professional achievements. She is making high-impact contributions to scholarship

focused on Latino youth and families. She regularly disseminates her work at professional conferences, as evidenced by 21 conference presentations (lead author on 16). Furthermore, her work is appearing in high-impact journals."

John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo, the namesakes of this award, made significant contributions to the scholarship on ethnic minority families, especially our understanding of African Americans' familial experiences. ✨



Diamond Y. Bravo

NCFR Student Award

James Kale Monk

James Kale Monk is the 2016 recipient of the NCFR Student Award, which is given to an NCFR graduate student member who has demonstrated excellence as a student and shows great potential for contributing to Family Science.



James Kale Monk

Mr. Monk is a doctoral student in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After receiving undergraduate degrees in psychology and family studies, he earned his master's in marriage and family therapy from Kansas State University. He is a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) and was the 2015 recipient of NCFR's Feldman Outstanding Research Proposal for Research in Family Policy award.

In his letter nominating Mr. Monk, Dr. Brian G. Ogolsky writes: "During his nearly three years on campus, Kale has produced a body of work that is unparalleled by his peers. In fact, his output is on par with highly productive assistant professors on campus. To date, he has published a total of eleven papers in outstanding peer-reviewed journals, on three of which he was the lead author." ✨

Ernest W. Burgess Award

Katherine R. Allen

Katherine R. Allen is the 2016 recipient of the Ernest W. Burgess Award, which recognizes an NCFR member's outstanding scholarly achievement in the study of families.

Dr. Allen, who has been an NCFR member since 1978, is a professor of human development and family studies at Virginia Tech. She is a faculty affiliate of the Center for Gerontology, Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Women's and Gender Studies Program. She is an inaugural NCFR Fellow, as well as the inaugural recipient of NCFR's Alexis J. Walker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Feminist Family Studies.

Within NCFR, Dr. Allen has served three terms on the NCFR Board of Directors and has chaired the Elections Council, Fellows Com-

mittee, Feminism and Family Studies Section, and Qualitative Family Research Network Focus Group.

Dr. Allen has contributed extensively to the scholarship of Family Science teaching, qualitative research methods, feminist family studies, Family Science theories, and the connection between private experience and social science.

Ernest W. Burgess, the namesake of this award, cofounded NCFR and was the organization's fourth president. He was a pioneer in his contributions to marriage and family research. ✨



Katherine R. Allen

Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award

Jennifer Randles

Jennifer Randles is the 2016 recipient of the Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award, which is given to a graduate student or new professional who has published or is about to publish a paper using feminist frameworks and methodologies in research. Her paper is titled "Redefining the Marital Power Struggle Through

Relationship Skills: How United States Marriage Education Programs Challenge and Reproduce Gender Inequality."

Dr. Randles is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at California State University, Fresno. Her primary research interests include low-income families, marriage, gender, family policies, and feminist qualitative research methods. Her first book, *Proposing Prosperity: Marriage Education Policy and Inequality in America*, will be published by Columbia University Press in December, and her current research is an ethnography of responsible fatherhood programming.

Jessie Bernard, the namesake of the award, is a former NCFR Board of Directors member and a pioneer in the field of feminist family studies. ✨



Jennifer Randles

2016 Affiliate Councils Awards

Student Affiliate Grant

Illinois State University Council on Family Relations

State/Regional Affiliate Grant

Oklahoma Council on Family Relations

Meritorious Service Awards

Bill Anderson—Illinois Council on Family Relations

Debra L. Berke—Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations

J. Kelly McCoy—Utah Council on Family Relations

President-for-a-Day Award

Rachel Arocho—Ohio State University, Ohio Council on Family Relations ✨

2016 Section Awards

Advancing Family Science Section

Wesley Burr Graduate Student Scholarship Award

Rocco Placenti and Pearl Stewart—Montclair State University
"How a Course Changes Student Attitudes Toward Single Mothers in Poverty"

Wesley Burr Graduate Student Scholarship Award

Jessica Cless, Lauren Oseland, Briana Nelson Goff—Kansas State University
"Teaching Trauma and Trauma-Informed Teaching in the Field of Social Sciences"

Education and Enrichment Section

Student Proposal Awards

Seonghee Hong—University of Minnesota
"Workplace Predictors of Parent Educators' Terminology Acceptance Attitudes"
Coauthor: Susan Walker

Kristin Anders—University of Tennessee, Knoxville
"Emerging Adults' Sexual Identity, Pluralistic Ignorance and Sexual Hookups"
Coauthors: Spencer Olmstead & Erin Moore

Ethnic Minorities Section

Student Best Paper Award

Leanna Moron—George Mason University
"Undocumented and Vulnerable: Central American Immigrant Mothers' Well-Being"

New Professional Best Paper Award

Antoinette Landor—University of Missouri
"Human Rights and Relationships of African Americans: Exploring Health and Well-being"

Families and Health Section

Outstanding Professional Paper/Publications Award

Amy Rauer—Auburn University
"Romantic Relationships and Alcohol Use: A Long-Term, Developmental Approach"

Outstanding Student and New Professional Paper Award

Christina M. Marini—Purdue University
"Emotion Expression, Avoidance and Psychological Health During Reintegration: A Dyadic Analysis of Actor and Partner Associations Within a Sample of Military Couples"

Family Policy Section

Feldman Travel Award—Graduate Student

Anthony James Ferraro—Florida State University
"The Multidimensional Co-Parenting Scale for Dissolved Relationships"

Feldman Travel Award—New Professional

Shane Kavanaugh—Iowa State University
"Infant Reunification: The Role of Kinship Placements and Parental Substance Abuse"

Family Therapy Section

Best Research Paper Award—Student

Yaliu He—University of Minnesota
"Which Treatment Do You Prefer? Parent Preferences and Treatment Outcomes"

Best Research Paper Award—New Professional

Xiaohui Li—Northern Illinois University
"A Couple-Based Personality Prototype Based on Big Five: A Latent Class Analysis"

Best Poster Award—Student

Young Jin Kang—University of Missouri
"Stepchildren's Communication Boundary Management and Family Relationships"

Best Poster Award—New Professional

Patricia Barros-Gomes—University of Maryland
"Brazilian Husbands' Recovery from Alcohol Dependency: What's the Wives' Role?"

International Section

Jan Trost Award

Catherine A. Solheim—University of Minnesota

Annual Conference Travel Scholarship

Joan Kabaria Muriithi—Kenyatta University

Religion, Spirituality, and Family Section

Outstanding Paper Award

Meg Wilkes Karraker—University of St. Thomas

"Religion, Spirituality, and Social Values Among Mid-Western Middle Class Families"

Student and New Professional Outstanding Paper Award

Woosang Hwang—Syracuse University
"Religious Discordance Between Adult Children and Their Parents: Consequences for Intergenerational Solidarity Across Several Decades"

Research and Theory Section

Best Abstract by a Student and New Professional Award

Casey J. Totenhagen—University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa

"Stress and Relationship Quality: Vulnerabilities in Same-Sex Couples"

Coauthors: Ashley Randall & Kayla Lloyd ✨

2016 Focus Group Awards

Qualitative Family Research Network Focus Group

Anselm Strauss Award for Qualitative Family Research

Elizabeth A. Sharp and Genevieve D. DeCesaro (2015). "Modeling Innovative Methodological Practices in a Dance/Family Studies Transdisciplinary Project." *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 7 (Dec), 367-380

Anselm Strauss Award for Qualitative Family Research (Honorable Mention)

Tony E. Adams and Jimmie Manning (2015). "Autoethnography and Family Research." *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, 7 (Dec), 350-366

Men in Families Focus Group

Best Research Article Award

Valerie King

"Stepfather-Adolescent Relationship Quality During the First Year of Transitioning to a Stepfamily"

Coauthors: Paul R. Amato & Rachel Lindstrom

Best New Professional Research Article Award

Allen W. Barton

"Father Involvement and Young Rural African American Men's Engagement in Substance Misuse and Multiple Sexual Partnerships"

Coauthors: Steven M. Kogan, Junhan Cho, & Geoffrey L. Brown

Focus Group Awards continued on page 19



Advancing Family Science Section Update

Robin G. Yaure, Ph.D., Section Chair, r2y@psu.edu

By the time this newsletter comes out, the 2016 NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis will be just a memory, and my time as section chair will have come to an end. The good news is that although the conference will already be something we are thinking of in the past tense, the reverberations from the contacts we have made or renewed, the presentations we attended that inspired us in our teaching and scholarship, and the plans we have made for future work for NCFR and our own organizations will still resonate and will help us feel invigorated as we finish the semester and calendar year.

The challenge for many of us is to keep track of all the ideas we have and plans we have made. Sometimes we get bogged down in the details of our daily lives, and it is hard to recall what we had decided to do in the future. I keep a pile of papers I collected at the

conference on my desk for free moments, which may be few and far between. I look at my notes and comments and remember the excitement I felt when I wrote them down. I may make additional notes, send out an email or two to a colleague, or look up some research to follow up on whatever struck me during the conference. I often refer to something I learned during the conference during one of my classes, and I love that the information is so current.

Planning for the conference goes on year-round, I have found. I have been impressed when I received inquiries about special session ideas that were spawned during the previous year's conference or heard about proposals already in the works before the new year was upon us. For example, this year's workshop "Case Studies in the Family Science Classroom: Write and Use Them to

Promote Learning About Families, Ethics, Sustainable Development, and More," presented by Deb Gentry, came about, in part, as a result of discussion at last year's section member meeting on goals for the section. The session "Academic Administration and Leadership: Experiences of Five Women in Family Science" was submitted well before the proposal deadline as a special session for the section.

So, follow up on something from the conference that you had planned to do but forgot about or put off, planning to wait until you had more time. Remind your colleagues of something you had talked about doing for the next year's conference. Ultimately, take this message as encouragement to look up your own notes to renew your excitement and remind yourself of ideas that arose at the conference. ✨

Congratulations to our 2016 NCFR Honors Recipients!

In 2016, 24 students graduating from university or college family programs were awarded NCFR Honors Student status:

Amy Adkins, Utah Valley University
Hayley Bryan, University of Central Oklahoma
Heather Cabrey, Weber State University
Brittany Carnley, Texas Woman's University
Cassie Decker, Weber State University
Jennifer Ghan, Weber State University
Jose-Michael Gonzalez, University of Arizona
Jennifer Greiving, University of Colorado Denver
Hannah Hartman, Messiah College
Christian Hernandez, University of North Texas
Breanna Hintz, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Melinda Holohan, Western Michigan University

Kylee Hurd, Weber State University
Ashley Landers, University of Minnesota
Andrea Lauritzen, Weber State University
Kaitlin Layman, Anderson University (Indiana)
Abigail Leach, Messiah College
Julie McCauley, Texas Woman's University
Melody Nordberg, Messiah College
Craig Salerno, Montclair State University
Jessica Slusarchuk, University of Central Oklahoma
Kristen Stone, Weber State University
Jaclyn Weit, Messiah College
Britain Zisumbo, Weber State University

The NCFR Honors Student Recognition program recognizes students for their outstanding achievements in academics, leadership, and community service in the family yeld. Congratulations to all our recipients! Learn more at ncfr.org/honors. ✨

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Brandi Michelle Sutherland
Robert C Tuttle
Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth
Julie Mapes Wilgen



Scenes From the NCFR Conference

Focus Group Awards continued from page 17

Diversity and Inclusion Research Article Award

Geoffrey L. Brown

“Parent Gender Differences in Emotion Socialization Behaviors Vary by Ethnicity and Child Gender”

Cocauthors: Ashley B. Craig & Amy G. Halberstadt

Issues in Aging Focus Group

Students and New Professionals Award

Woosang Hwang—Syracuse University

“Religious Discordance Between Adult Children and Their Parents: Consequences for Intergenerational Solidarity Across Several Decades”

Student Runner-up

James Duncan—Florida State University

“Leisure, Relatedness, and Ill-Being Among Older Adults in Long-Term Care”

Professional Award

Megan Gilligan—Iowa State University

“Sibling Tension and Psychological Well-Being in Midlife”

Professional Runner-up

Jay Mancini—University of Georgia

“Contributions of Communities to Family Resilience”

Crafting Scholarship continued from page 13

authors with the need to meet the mission of the journal in publishing high-quality work.

Final Comments

The writing and publication of scholarly work is time consuming, difficult, and challenging, and I’m often at my wit’s end in the midst of the process. Then there are the reviews and editors to contend with, and my emotional reactions to criticism. Whenever I receive critical reviews, I’m not a happy camper. The only real difference between my experience of writing and contending with reviews and that of new professionals, is that I know the drill. I expect there will be productive writing sessions and sessions that don’t feel terribly productive. I write on, butt in chair. Whenever I send a manuscript out the door, I imagine it will get rave reviews, accepted without question. We all have our dreams, but reality does have a way of preserving. Challenging decision letters from editors and their accompanying reviews are to be expected. A challenging call for a revision and resubmission is a distinct opportunity; it is not a reason for inertia. We find ways to work through our emotional responses to criticism and then continue working, all the while mindful of our process and the features of our writing life that will lead to success in writing and publishing.

Over the past several years, it has been a pleasure to share some thoughts about

the crafting of scholarship in *NCFR Report*. There is certainly more to discuss including writing cover letters to accompany invited revisions, or more controversial issues such as requesting reconsideration of a rejected manuscript. I encourage you to pursue exploring the craft, perhaps visiting the available literature. ✨

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Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) Update

Inclusive, Diverse, and Socially Just NCFR: Future Planning for IDC Special Sessions

Soyoung Lee, Christi McGeorge, and Sandy Bailey,* Inclusion and Diversity Committee Members, contact: ncfr.org/idc-webform

Since 2013, when the NCFR membership began electing members to the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC), the IDC has been experimenting with various organizational tools to foster discussions about inclusion, diversity, and social justice issues. In our opinion, one of the most successful outcomes of this process was the creation of NCFR conference sessions solely devoted to current and relevant issues pertaining to inclusion, diversity, and social justice.

After the IDC article “I can’t breathe; A Call for Dialogue and Action” was featured in the spring 2015 NCFR Report (ncfr.org/ncfr-report/current-issue/i-cant-breathe-call-dialogue-and-action), the IDC offered the first special session during the 2015 NCFR Annual Conference: “Social Justice Strategies of Family Researchers and Professionals in the Age of Ferguson” (ncfr.org/ncfr-report/current-issue/inclusion-and-diversity-committee-report-spring-2016). After receiving positive feedback from the NCFR membership, the IDC held its second special session during the 2016 conference: “Social Justice Strategies to Address the Elephant in the Classroom or the Family Room: Race and Racism in America.” This session served as a continuing conversation about social justice actions that family scholars and practitioners can actively engage in to begin to address incidents of racism. To facilitate more active and focused conversations, this second session consisted of a series of roundtables, each focusing on a topic related to the experiences of racial minorities.

These sessions have become an important way for the IDC to partner with many of NCFR’s sections to bring current topics to all members of NCFR. In particular, eight sections cosponsored the IDC session in 2015; nine sponsored the 2016 special session. Through these sessions, the IDC recognized the following:

~ NCFR members welcome a session focused solely on issues related to inclusion,

diversity, and social justice.

~ The IDC special sessions provide a more effective way for all sections and focus groups to collectively express their support for inclusion, diversity, and social justice through sponsorship.

~ The IDC special sessions highlight the work NCFR members are doing to address inclusion, diversity, and social justice issues. As other professional organizations inform their membership about these important issues, the IDC special sessions provide an excellent platform for NCFR to actively exhibit efforts to emphasize inclusion, diversity, and social justice.

The NCFR Board of Directors also recognized the importance of these sessions. The board recently agreed to assign a slot on the NCFR conference agenda for a special session on inclusion, diversity, and social justice for the next five years, which will be led by the IDC in coordination with the conference program chair and program committee. An ongoing IDC session will be helpful to facilitate more systematic coverage of inclusion and diversity topics, as it will allow the IDC to thoughtfully plan and schedule topics and ensure inclusion of a variety of topics relevant to a wide range of underrepresented and marginalized groups. We hope this opportunity helps the IDC continue to build

a stronger partnership with NCFR’s sections and focus groups.

This series of special sessions is for all of us—the NCFR’s members—to reflect on who we are, what we do, and how we can support all families and communities as family scholars, educators, and practitioners. These sessions are designed for sharing ideas, concerns, and suggestions in an effort to become more inclusive family professionals and, ultimately, to support NCFR in building a more inclusive, diverse, and socially just environment for all members.

To better utilize this opportunity, the IDC is calling for NCFR members’ input on the upcoming special sessions. If you have thoughts, suggestions, or insights for helping to move NCFR and ourselves as members forward in regard to inclusion, diversity, and social justice through these sessions, please share your ideas via the IDC contact webform (ncfr.org/idc-webform). We appreciate your suggestions and look forward to continuing our dialogue about future plans for these special sessions. We hope to see you in attendance at future special sessions at the NCFR conference.

*Additional IDC members at the time of writing are Ruben Viramontez Anguiano, Shann Hwa (Abraham) Hwang, Anthony James, Kate Kuvalanka, Vanja Lazarevic, and Jennifer Kerpelman (board liaison). *

Southeastern Affiliate Update

Juliet Bradley, Ph.D., LSW, Affiliate Media and Public Relations Vice President, jbradley2@kaplan.edu

The next Southeastern Council on Family Relations (SECFR) Conference will be held March 16–18, 2017, at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Charlotte, North Carolina. The theme of the conference is “Research in the Wild: Application of Family and Social Science Research.” Continuing education approval is pending. Please visit the SECFR website (southeastern.ncfr.org) for updates. *



Northwest Affiliate Update

Jana Meinhold, Ph.D., CFLE, Affiliate President, meinhold@pdx.edu

The Northwest Council on Family Relations (NWCFR) held its annual two-day conference in Portland, Oregon, on April 21–22, with the theme “Engaging Youth in Schools and Communities: Enhancing Protective Factors.” The conference hosted two plenary speakers this year, opening with Dr. Ben Anderson-Nathe, associate professor and program director of child and family studies at Portland State University. Dr. Anderson-Nathe, whose presentation was titled “Shadows on the Wall: Putting ‘Adolescence’ in Its Place,” facilitated a conversation that challenged the ways that we label and identify youth using a developmental lens. Dr. Tony Biglan, senior research scientist at Oregon Research Institute, was

our evening plenary speaker and shared with us his research and focus on preventive interventions for children and youth, along with his newly published book, *The Nurture Effect*. The conference also offered professional mentoring roundtables, providing student engagement with professionals across a number of fields and career paths. Conference activities on the second day included poster presentations, a series of breakout sessions, and an interactive concluding discussion to support conversations translating the plenary speakers’ work and research into practice. Thank you to Drew Lenore Betz and Dr. Kathleen Rodgers for facilitating the concluding discussion.



Thank you to the NWCFR board members for their time and commitment in planning and for supporting student, peer, and community member involvement in the conference. The 2016 board members include AnaMaria Martinez, Rebecca Sero, Lisa Greene, Ashley Xagoraris, Joel Kaplan, Christina McAllister, Sarah Feeney, Margaret Manoogian, and Jana Meinhold.

If you are in the area, please join us for the NWCFR’s 2017 conference on April 20–21, 2017, once again in Portland, Oregon, at Portland State University. The 2017 conference theme is “Family Communication across the Life Course: Transitioning Successfully Through Change.” *

Minnesota Affiliate Update

Peg Lindlof, M.S., CFLE, Affiliate President, plindlof@comcast.net

NCFR’s Minnesota affiliate (MNCFR) completed several initiatives over the summer and fall:

~ MNCFR was very involved in the affiliate councils activities at the NCFR conference in Minneapolis in November. We enjoyed

meeting members of other affiliates at the first affiliate “exhibit” tables and at the Newcomers Welcome event. MNCFR also was featured at the Affiliate Councils Workshop, where board members Beth Gausman and Mary Maher spoke about



our most recent strategic planning process and shared details about the recent update and training plans for MNCFR’s publication *Ethical Thinking and Practice for Parent and Family Educators*.

~ Our fall 2016 conference, “Tools for Engaging Families in Social, Educational, and Economic Justice,” was held on Dec. 2.

~ MNCFR presented three awards at the fall conference:

- o The Ruth Hathaway Jewson Distinguished Service to Families Award was given to Mary Maher.
- o The Friend of the Family Award was presented to the Minnesota Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.
- o The Distinguished Service to MNCFR Award was given to Ron Pitzer. *

Oklahoma Affiliate Update

Ginger L. Welch, Ph.D., Affiliate President, gwelch@okstate.edu

The Oklahoma Council on Family Relations (OKCFR) will be hosting its annual conference April 6–7, 2017. The theme, “The Business of Building a Family,” will emphasize not only the vital building blocks of family resilience but also the factors practitioners require to build a healthy business model to best support families.

We hope this dual-track event will be of interest to many professionals in our state and

region. Our conference will feature a Thursday-night keynote and a Friday-morning plenary session, as well as multiple breakout sessions, a student poster competition, and an award presentation for an outstanding community partner who has served Oklahoma’s families.

To learn more about the conference and to register, please visit our website at ok.ncfr.org and make plans to join us at the University of Central Oklahoma in the spring! *



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Ethnic Minorities Section Update

Ani Yazedjian, Ph.D., Section Chair, ayazedj@ilstu.edu

It was great to see so many familiar colleagues and meet new ones in Minneapolis last month. We had several inspiring sessions and stimulating conversation throughout this year's NCFR conference. Be sure to read the Ethnic Minorities Section postconference newsletter for highlights of the sessions we sponsored. Thank you to all members who volunteered their time reviewing conference proposals and serving as facilitators for our sessions. The success of our sessions depends, in large part, on your hard work prior to and during the conference.

This year, the section recognized Dr. Diamond Bravo as the winner of the John L. and Harriette P. McAdoo Dissertation Award. The biennial award provides support for the completion of a dissertation with a focus on issues affecting families of color. Dr. Bravo's dissertation (which she already has successfully defended) is titled "A Cultural Perspective of Achievement Motivation Among Mexican-Origin Adolescent Mothers,"

which explores the promotive and protective function of familism values to Mexican-origin adolescent mothers' achievement motivation processes across the transition to parenthood and young adulthood, and identifies patterns of cultural protective factors and how they interactively relate to educational adjustment over time. Dr. Bravo will present her findings at the 2017 NCFR Annual Conference in Orlando.

In closing, I want to thank our outgoing officers Shuntay McCoy (Students and New Professionals representative), Jose Miguel Rodas (SNP representative), Yolanda Mitchell (secretary-treasurer) and Roudi Nazarinia Roy (chair-elect) for their hard work over the past two years. They have been a pleasure to work with and tireless in their commitment to the section. The section now welcomes incoming officers Henry Gonzalez (SNP), Antoinette Landor (SNP), Lorey Wheeler (secretary-treasurer), Yolanda Mitchell (chair-elect), and Roudi Nazarinia Roy (chair), who began their terms at the conference in Minneapolis. ✨



Families and Health Section Update



Karina Shreffler, Ph.D., Outgoing Section Chair, and Jerica Berge, Ph.D., CFLE, Incoming Section Chair, jberge@umn.edu

We hope you enjoyed the 2016 NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota! The Families and Health Section presented 74 posters, five symposia, six paper sessions, one workshop, and a lightning paper session. Topics focused on various families-and-health issues, such as obesity disparities, intimate partner violence, mental health, and interpersonal relationships and health outcomes. We also held our Families and Health Section meeting, where we turned over our section officers. Welcome to the incoming section officers:

- ~ Chair: Jerica Berge, Ph.D., MPH, LMFT, CFLE
- ~ Secretary-treasurer: Amber Seidel, Ph.D., CFLE
- ~ Students and New Professionals representative: Brianna Routh, MS (current doctoral student)
- ~ Chair-elect: Kimberly Greder, Ph.D., CFLE
- ~ Past chair: Karina Shreffler, Ph.D.

In addition, at our section meeting we announced the winners of our best-paper awards for a Students and New Professionals (SNP) member and a professional member. Each of these recipients received a plaque and \$200:

- ~ Students and New Professionals paper: Christina Marini, MS, "Emotion Expression, Avoidance and Psychological Health During Reintegration: A Dyadic Analysis of Actor and Partner Associations Within a Sample of Military Couples."
- ~ Professional paper: Amy Rauer, Ph.D., "Romantic Relationships and Alcohol Use: A Long-Term, Developmental Approach."

We thank all of you who submitted proposals or papers for awards, as well as those who reviewed proposals for our section in 2016! The success of our section depends upon your engagement. In the upcoming months, please consider submitting a proposal to the Families and Health Section for the 2017 conference in Orlando, Florida! ✨

Research and Theory Section Update

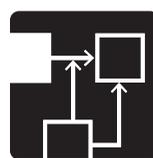
Christine Proulx, Ph.D., Section Chair, proulxc@missouri.edu

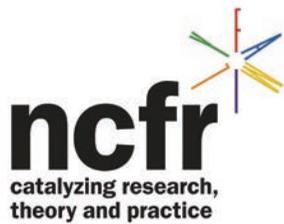
Each year, the Research and Theory Section of NCFR recognizes the highest-scoring abstract submitted by a student or new professional. This year's award went to Dr. Casey Totenhagen, who, along with coauthors Ashley Randall and Kayla Lloyd, submitted the proposal titled "Stress and Relationship Quality: Vulnerabilities in Same-Sex Couples."

Dr. Totenhagen is an assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Alabama. Her research interests include relational quality in a variety of adult romantic relationships, with an emphasis on how daily experiences affect relationship quality.

The winning abstract applied the Vulnerability-Stress-Adaptation model to same-sex couples, with a focus on internalized homophobia and outness as enduring vulnerabilities that might moderate the extent to which daily stress is associated with relationship quality. Dr. Totenhagen and her colleagues found that on days that individuals with high (but not low) levels of internalized homophobia reported greater daily stress, they also reported greater severity of conflict, poorer relationship quality, and lower commitment. Partners' stress was also associated with decreased commitment for men (not women) with high internalized homophobia.

The section congratulates Dr. Totenhagen on her award! ✨





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