

**In this issue:**

## Family Demography

pages F1 - F12

The articles in the Family Focus section this issue concentrate on data and trends in family-related topics such as multi-generational households, children and media use, “gray divorce,” changes in family composition, and the use of longitudinal studies.

Next issue: Family Therapy and Aging



### Annual Conference 2013

November 6 - 9

San Antonio, Texas

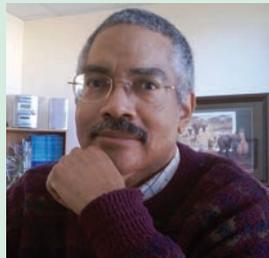
The plenary line-up is set... four distinguished presenters speaking on important topics relating to the well-being of children and youth. Early bird registration ends June 17.

Read more on page 8.

## Congratulations to the 2013 NCFR Elected Officers

The following NCFR members were elected to serve in the following offices of the National Council on Family Relations beginning in November of 2013.

**Board President-elect** (President-elect 2013-2015, Board President 2015-2017) **William D. Allen, Ph.D.**, owner of Healing Bonds, Minneapolis, Minnesota (clinical and consulting services). Bill has served NCFR in many areas: member of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC); Program Chair, 2006 NCFR Annual Conference; Member of Board of Directors; Elections Council; co-chair, Men in Families Focus Group. Bill has also been involved in the Minnesota Affiliate Council (MCFR) Ethical Thinking and Practice Program Committee and Board of Directors.



Bill’s message: “Contemporary families present new challenges as innovative technologies create opportunities for family members but often unexpected constraints to healthy family process. The increasing diversity within and between world communities pushes the very definition of terms like marriage and family. Throughout its history, NCFR’s leaders have helped preserve its role as the preeminent resource on family science. I want to continue that tradition and I believe our many cultural backgrounds, research foci, professional settings, and experience levels are the building blocks that will make NCFR an even more effective resource for family scientists, practitioners, and policymakers, here and around the world.”

### Board Members-at-large 2013-2016

**Hilary A. Rose, Ph.D., CFLE**, Associate Professor, Applied Human Sciences, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.



Hilary has participated in NCFR in the following ways: member since 1989 (FF, RT Sections); chair, TCRM Workshop; chair, VIP Speakers Subcommittee; Local Arrangements Committee, Vancouver, BC; chair, Annual Conference Quality Committee, Standing Committee to the Board of Directors; member, Northwest Council on Family Relations; SNP Representative to the Board of Directors; SNP Representative for Family Science Section.

Hilary’s message: “Historically, NCFR’s Annual Conference has struggled to maintain a healthy balance between conference presentations of empirical research – for researchers – and evidence-based practice – for practitioners. This issue of ‘conference quality’ has been on-going for over a decade now to my knowledge (and perhaps longer). Ideally, we want our conference to be all things to all people (i.e., all of our member stakeholders), and yet this has proven to be challenging, especially in tough economic times. I would like to participate in the continuing dialogue about possible solutions to this challenging issue.”

**Frank D. Fincham, Ph.D.**, Eminent Scholar, Florida State University. Frank has served NCFR in the following ways: chair, Reuben Hill Award Committee; Fellows Committee; Editorial Board, *Family Relations*; Editorial Board, *Family Theory*

2013 elected officers continued on page 2

# Report

## of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for Report:

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

**President:** Elaine Anderson

**Board Members:** Rose Allen, Paul Amato, I. Joyce Chang, Jennifer Hardesty, Carolyn Henry, Lyndal Khaw, Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield

**Executive Director:** Diane Cushman

**Editor, NCFR Report:** Nancy Gonzalez

**Assistant Editor:** Charles Cheesebrough

**Adviser:** Laura Sanchez

**Copy Editor:** Lisa Hawkins

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

To advertise in the Report, please see the specifications and price list at [http://www.ncfr.org/adrates\\_report.html](http://www.ncfr.org/adrates_report.html).

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

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

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## 2013 elected officers continued from page 1

& Review, Editorial Board, *Journal of Marriage and Family*; invited speaker, NCFR Annual Conference; authored *Decade in Review* articles.

Frank's message:

"NCFR's strength is its diversity. To nurture and build on this strength, each constituency in the organization needs to be respected and to have a voice. Although known primarily as a researcher, I am committed to supporting this diversity, in all its facets. My career exemplifies such commitment as I have traversed disciplinary boundaries, the artificial boundary between science and practice, and cultural boundaries (professional life lived on three different continents). I strongly support NCFR's role in enriching family life through development and promotion of empirically-grounded educational, preventive and therapeutic interventions as well as through social policy.



### Annual Conference Program Chair-elect

(Program Chair, 2015 Annual Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada)

### Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, M.B.A., Ph.D.

Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Purdue University. Shelley has volunteered in NCFR in the following ways: Program Committee; Task Force on Technology; Feminism and Family Studies Section: past chair, chair, vice-chair, secretary/treasurer; member of mentoring committee; member of awards committee; Research and Theory Section: past chair, chair-elect, chair, and member of Reuben Hill Award committee; focus group co-chair; *Journal of Marriage and Family*, Editorial Board; *Family Relations*, Editorial Board; *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, Editorial Board.



Shelley's message: "2015 will mark the 200th anniversary of the end of the War of 1812, the last armed conflict between the U.S. and Canada, our host. It is also scheduled to be the year after the U.S. finishes withdrawing from Afghanistan. Conflict, violence and war are shaping the lives of millions of families around the world, and many NCFR members are working to

help families to survive and even thrive in the face of traumatic experiences arising both from within and outside. Holding our conference in an international location is an excellent opportunity for us to consider 'Family Risks and Resilience' in light of conflict, violence and war at home and around the world.

**Affiliate Councils President-elect** (NCFR Board of Directors 2013-2015; Affiliate Councils President 2015-2017)

### Rebecca Ward,

**Ph.D.**, Associate

Professor and Direc-

tor of Women's and

Gender Studies Pro-

gram, Shippensburg

University. Rebecca

has served the Affili-

ate Councils as Past

President and board

member of the Mid-Atlantic Council on

Family Relations.

Rebecca's message: "Affiliate Councils provide a forum for personal connections and community activism. From my Extension work in community capacity building to my current position as Director of Women's and Gender Studies, I would bring extensive experience in program development and evaluation to the position of Affiliate Councils President-elect. Identifying and working towards strategic and realistic outcomes will be at the cornerstone of my contribution to strengthening and supporting Affiliate Councils."



### Students and New Professionals Board Representative-elect

(SNP Board Representative-elect 2013-2014; Students and New Professionals Board Representative 2014-2016)

### Rachel R.

**Engler, M.A.**,

Doctoral candi-

date, instructor,

and graduate

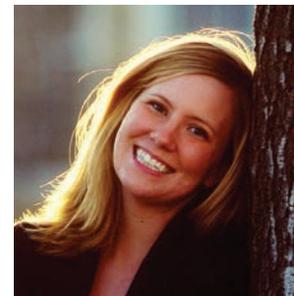
research as-

stant, Texas

Tech Univer-

sity. Rachel has

participated in NCFR in the following capacities: Felix Berardo Mentoring Award Committee member; contributor to *NCFR Report*; chair of multiple SNP workshop sessions; conference proposal reviewer for the Feminism and Family Studies and Family Health Sections; Section Memberships:



2013 elected officers continued on page 11



## Leadership development and mentoring

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

Although my area of research does not focus specifically on adult development and aging, I have been thinking about these concepts most recently in relation to my own family, but also in my work environment and of course for NCFR. I have shared with you that my own mother is 103. It is hard for me to not confront personally the rewards and challenges of aging as my family works to keep her engaged in our lives but also connected with her friends and involved in her community.

As the chair of a family science department, on a regular basis I address similar issues related to the development of my faculty. We all want to feel engaged and connected with our work peers and to be involved in making contributions to the members of the community in which we work. For some of us that community may be our academic institution and the students and faculty, while for others it may be the community of practitioners and clients with whom we work.

I believe that the NCFR as a professional association is not immune from this challenge of considering how it can keep its members generative no matter what stage of their professional development. That means as an organization we want to foster an environment that provides our members with benefits that enhance them professionally.

NCFR has recognized for some time the importance of tailoring our activities for members who might be at different stages of their careers. Perhaps the action that is most familiar to all of you is when in 1969, a new member group was formed—Students and New Professionals (SNP). The SNPs have evolved successfully over the last 40 years, but it is through recognizing that individuals who are new to our organization or profession may need unique supports that the group has thrived and brought energy to the NCFR. Examples of some actions include: strategies on how to navigate a conference, our student affiliate organizations, preparing for your profession including our famous speed mentoring session, and the SNP Leadership Council.

NCFR also has supported early career professionals in various ways such as providing information about how to publish, developing teaching curriculum, conducting evaluations, becoming an advocate, and exploring new therapy techniques. All of these actions just like those through SNPs, have been designed to help our members continue to improve their work, to be familiar with the activities of their peers, and to be engaged and make contributions to the community in which they work.

So where am I going with this column and why have I called it leadership development? One area that NCFR provides a place for its members to learn new skills is with leadership. How do we do that? I believe through the structure of our sections, leadership skills can be discovered and enhanced. We have elected student/new professional representatives who work side-by-side with other section officers. These engagements allow for the possibility of leadership mentoring, which is why I initially talked about adult development and aging. It is not just the SNP who can benefit from leadership mentoring through the sections. Anyone who engages in a targeted activity for a section may benefit from the experience and advice of other sages. And NCFR has a lot of wise members. Wise does not just equate with old, but rather with various experiences. Many of you have important leadership experiences that you can bring to other members.

NCFR needs your leadership. The NCFR Board of Directors initially began exploring this need almost 18 months ago when we first talked about getting more of our senior researchers to become more engaged with our conference. Many of the sections invited senior researchers to participate in sessions last year where their expertise on a topic could be explored with other NCFR colleagues. The additional side benefit from those interactions was the opportunity also to learn about their career experiences, challenges faced and pathways taken. Senior researchers perhaps learned they were needed

to continue to mentor NCFR members at other stages of their careers.

I believe there are other ways that NCFR needs your mentoring and we have members, you, who could provide that leadership. There are multiple areas where work has commenced or is being designed that could utilize your leadership skills. For example, numbers of our members are University administrators. Often as an administrator, one does not have peers with whom to compare notes. NCFR is trying to organize an administrator support group where experiences can be shared and ideas and new tools of assistance developed. If you are or have been an administrator or perhaps aspire to be one, we need your expertise and involvement. I encourage you to contact Dawn Cassidy to express your interest and for additional contacts, [dawncassidy@ncfr.org](mailto:dawncassidy@ncfr.org).

Many of you have experience working in an NCFR section. Those of you who have served in section leadership positions could become mentors to others who would like to move into those roles. I challenge the sections to consider developing a mentoring capacity for those in your section who are interested in learning more or getting involved with section leadership. Maybe you'd like to hold an office on the NCFR Board or serve as NCFR President.

Not all tasks where you could bring your leadership are long term. Sometimes you might serve on a subcommittee or task force for just a few weeks. Occasionally the task entails only one conference call or group meeting. So let others know your interest so you either can be nominated for a position or simply asked to be involved with a task. Please consider what you can do. No amount of time is too large or small to offer when you bring an interest, expertise, and enthusiasm. Through some offering their leadership expertise, as well as others acknowledging their interest in developing leadership capacity, together we can create a legacy for future leaders in NCFR. ■



## The NCFR history book: Celebrating 75 Years of strengthening families

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

At the invitation of former NCFR executive director (1984-99) and lead researcher and author of the NCFR history book Mary Jo Czaplewski, five past (and one future) presidents of NCFR gathered over lunch on May Day 2013 at Axel's Charhouse in Roseville, Minnesota, to celebrate the history of NCFR.

Richard Hey (1969-70), Ira Reiss (1979-80), David Olson (1988-89), Pauline Boss (1996-97), and Bill Doherty (1998-99) were joined by future president Bill Allen (2015-17), long-time NCFR staff member Cindy Winter, and current staff members Jeanne Strand, Jason Samuels and me. Unfortunately Jan Hogan-Schiltgen (1989-90) was not able to join us. The luncheon was an opportunity for Mary Jo and Jason to show off the NCFR history book which will debut this summer. In return for sharing the progress on the publication, we were treated to colorful stories from the past--stories that brought the history of NCFR to life.

Unlike any book of history you have seen, this online resource will hold important historical facts and links to archived documents, audio recordings, and other digitized content. It will live and grow as stories are added by NCFR members. Paragraph by paragraph, members can add their comments and stories to the document. Once per year, staff will review all comments and deploy an updated version of the NCFR history. Your first opportunity to add content will come this summer and be reflected in the first issue that rolls out at the 2013 annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. This will be a history written by those who lived it.

Jason Samuels, Director of Innovation and Technology, has spearheaded this technological effort and worked directly with the software programmer to enhance the framework to meet NCFR needs. Kudos to Jason, who by the way, has a degree in history and loved this opportunity to dig into NCFR's past. Thanks also to Jeanne Strand who proofread Mary Jo's manuscript and to

Nancy Gonzalez who compiled the information on the recent years, 2007-2012.

Mary Jo reported her work (over 500 hours) developing the manuscript as a labor of love. She spent much of that time with Jason at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota, digging through the Social Welfare History Archives. This valuable collection includes all of NCFR's archives and is open to the public by appointment.

One theme common to the stories told by our former NCFR presidents was how NCFR provided a place for them to be heard. One example, shared by David Olson, as it now appears in the NCFR history book:

At the 1969 conference in Washington D.C., a group of students and young professionals, led by David Olson and Roger Rubin, established a Family Action Group. In its brief 48-hour existence, the group was recognized by the NCFR Executive Committee and given committee and Section status in the organization. The committee's purpose was the handling of organizational matters and the setting of objectives and priorities for Family Action. It was to be primarily responsible for planning the program of the Family Action Section at annual meetings. At that same time, students and young professionals were added to the Board and to all committees. Their first action was a proposal for a position paper

regarding "The Effect of the Vietnam War on Family Life in Southeast Asia and the United States." Gordon Shipman, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, wrote the initial paper, which after revision, was approved by the Executive Committee and passed by the members of NCFR at the business meeting. A statement was sent to President Nixon and to the press."

A scanned copy of the policy paper to President Nixon is included in the history document. [http://www.ncfr.org/sites/default/files/downloads/news/1969\\_resolution\\_letter\\_to\\_nixon\\_3-18-2013.pdf](http://www.ncfr.org/sites/default/files/downloads/news/1969_resolution_letter_to_nixon_3-18-2013.pdf)

Zippy News readers will notice that each week this year we have highlighted one person or event that was important to NCFR history. Whether you have been a member of NCFR for 50 years or 5 months we want your stories to become part of NCFR's story, also. Multiple perspectives create a more complete picture. Please share your NCFR experiences and become part of NCFR's documented history. Then join us in San Antonio in November to celebrate and create new memories, renew friendships and help to envision NCFR's future. If you have any information that you would like to contribute or would like assistance adding your story to NCFR's online history book, please contact Jason Samuels at [jasonsamuels@ncfr.org](mailto:jasonsamuels@ncfr.org).

### Thank you donors

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

- |                    |                     |                      |
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## I learn something new every day

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

I recently attended the Non-profit Technology Conference along with NCFR staff members Diane Cushman, Jason Samuels and Allison Wickler. I don't want to speak for Diane but I feel safe in saying that Jason and Allison were much more in their element at this conference than Diane or me. But it proved to be a very worthwhile experience in helping me get a better grasp of all things related to technology and social media.

I learned a lot about content curation and strategy as well as crowdsourcing (I can almost tell you what that is now) embracing failure, and ideas for how to tell your story. One of the biggest takeaways was the fact that if you don't embrace all the opportunities for collaboration, marketing, education, fundraising, advocacy etc. available through technology you are going to be left behind. I knew this already but seeing all the examples of how other organizations are using technology to meet their mission was inspiring.

Fortunately, NCFR is doing a good job of reaching out to members and interested family professionals through technology. There is an NCFR Facebook page and Twitter account @NCFR and many NCFR Affiliates and Student Affiliates have their own NCFR Facebook pages as well. For the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) program, we have a CFLE- Certified Family Life Educator Facebook page (open to anyone), the CFLE listserv (open to current CFLEs), a Twitter account @CFLE, and a LinkedIn Group – Certified Family Life Educators (CFLE) which is only open to active CFLEs. In addition, the NCFR website is fast becoming the go-to place for information and resources for family professionals (i.e. Professional Resource Library, etc.).

I'm of the generation where I did not use a computer until I was in my late 20's so much of the culture and mechanics of social media doesn't come naturally to me. As Jason Samuels can attest, I struggle to get my head around how most of these programs work (let's not even start about trying to remember which password goes with which

account) but with the able assistance of Jason and Allison Wickler, NCFR's Manager of Online Community and Web Content, I am making progress. I'm understanding the tremendous opportunities we have for connecting with each other and sharing all we have to offer to help strengthen families through these many outlets.

### Teenwise MN Conference

I also recently attended the Teenwise Minnesota Conference, (formerly known as Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting – MOAPPP). This is a great organization that I have been a member of for a number of years. They are all about prevention and education related to sexuality education and parenting. Being at the conference provided an opportunity for me to spend some time with family life educators and to learn more about the issues they face.

I attended sessions on transformative justice, the Affordable Care Act and adolescent sexual health, sex trafficking, and a session on a marketing campaign for local teen clinics using a positive, empowering approach.

But the most impressive session was the keynote by Dr. Laurence Steinberg of Temple University. He spoke on Why Adolescents Take Risks: New Discoveries about the Adolescent Brain. I heard a similar talk at my daughter's high school a few years back and it reminded me how incredibly important this information is for parents to understand. The analogy of the adolescent brain's "engine" being developed before the "brake system" is in place was perhaps the most helpful piece of information I ever received as the parent of a teenager. It helped make sense of so much of our daughter's behavior and helped me understand how important it was for my husband and I to "be the parents" and take responsibility for keeping her safe – even if it resulted in some angry words or even worse, the silent treatment.

A few days after I attended the Teenwise conference, I ran into a friend at the grocery store. She shared with me that she had recently caught her 13 year-old daughter smoking pot. I told her about the engine/brake analogy and how that plays into the things that

*cfle directions continued on page 13*

## Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between January 1 and March 31, 2013. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

### Arkansas

Allyson Dodds  
Tiffini Joplin

### California

Adrienne Bushrod  
Delphine Chow

### Florida

Jenna Neal  
Christine Schaff

### Kansas

Teauania Charles  
Kelsi Coble

### Maryland

Rabiah Bowman  
Elisabeth Campbell

Kaitlyn Johnson  
Christine Hudson  
Sheila Mbambo  
Bianca Pinnock  
Jennie Valerino

### Michigan

Anna Francisco  
Kim Haywood  
Amy McKinnon

### Minnesota

Kim Braulick  
Gilbert Domally FULL  
Lisa Krause

### Nebraska

Haley Fitzpatrick

### New York

Megan Burney  
Brianna Romano  
Michelle Simon

### North Carolina

Natalie Hamstead  
Jessica King

### Ohio

Jessica Arvan  
David Nelson  
Sarah Radeff

### Oklahoma

Brittany Bailey

### Tennessee

Lauren Gangaware  
Kacy Plunkett

Caroline Schaefer

### Texas

Justine Faghihifar  
Megan Grant

### Utah

Lindsey Ashcroft  
Megan Thorley

### Washington

Sabrina Enders  
Katrina Marquardt  
Melanie Seabrook  
Greta Stuhsatz

### Canada

Alberta  
Emma Goodbody



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- Receive automatic e-mail alerts when new postings match your preferred job title
- Check it out at <http://www.ncfr.org/career-center>



## You did WHAT?! The airing of marital laundry

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

Every now and then, I am reminded that being a student of the family sciences guarantees me absolutely no edge over anyone in the general population in dealing with family problems of my own. I have a little bit of an advantage in putting things in context, but at Casa Gonzalez, we have all the same drama.

About a year ago, something happened that was so unpredictable and outrageous that at the end of the day, the only redeeming thought I had was “Well, at least I can get an article out of it.” I’m going to share it, because it’s such a good example of how even those who work in our field have just as many misunderstandings as anyone else.

It began about two weeks previously with a stray comment I made to my husband. We were talking about how everything in print, on film, or on audio is becoming available online. And it’s happening so fast. We have hundreds of books in our home. Many of the classics with no copyright entanglements have been on the web for a while already. Check Project Gutenberg or Google books. It’s incredible. I don’t know if there are many paper versions of the classics sold anymore. Entire libraries are as close as your laptop. If you’re a reader, it’s a wonderful time to be alive.

However, there are those of us who like an old-fashioned book. I love reading NCFR journals on paper. I have a hard time curling up with a laptop. Likewise, for audio, I don’t like the iPod and earbud existence. Sometimes I like to have my music fill the room as I’m puttering around the house. This is where the problem began. That throw-away comment about this new digitized world was, “Someday soon, everything we own will be ‘up on the cloud.’” That’s what did it.

My husband George had the day off. He is an IT geek. Bad combination. I never know when some new contraption is going to come into the house and upgrade me, whether I want to or not. I got home from work and found several plastic bags on the front porch, waiting for the garbage. The contents were starting to poke through the bags, and I

noticed a corner of a CD jewel case. I pulled it out. It was the empty container for one of my CDs. Quickly I started tearing through the bags. Four kitchen sized garbage bags were full of my empty CD cases.

I was furious! I knew immediately what had happened. George had taken all of my CDs and scanned them in and uploaded them to “the cloud.” Under copyright law, it is permissible to transfer your CDs into digital online storage as long as you can prove you



*Nancy’s Edison Diamond Disk phonograph circa 1920*

bought it once by keeping your original disc. You can stack them onto a spindle, squirrel them away, and possibly never lay eyes on them again. But I don’t want them on the cloud! I want my CDs just the way they were, thank you very much! He was ready to hear me exclaim how grateful I was that he spent the day performing a service that people pay

money for. I have never really known what a “conniption” is, but I assure you, I had one.

Fast forward—he has since matched up the CDs with their jewel cases and everything is back the way it was. In fact, it’s better now that everything has a duplicate on the cloud—wherever that is.

The point I’m making is that I have had the occasional stereotypical female complaint over the years that he’s “not spontaneous” and he “doesn’t surprise me” or he “can’t anticipate what I want.” He tried. He really did. I said “everything would be on the cloud someday” and what he heard was “I want everything up on the cloud someday.” What I saw, as soon as I regained my composure, is that he had spent an entire day working on something spontaneous, to surprise me, trying to anticipate what I wanted. And for the first 10 minutes, I couldn’t connect those dots. I hurt him, and I was sorry. I now find myself grateful for his intentions and grateful for a husband who is such a good sport and allows me to use stories from our life together to illustrate a professional point.

What I really want, and it’s taken me awhile to realize it, is someplace where there is very little change—in my home. I have gotten to the point in my life where spontaneous surprises are everywhere. When I walk through our front door, I want stability. Everyone else can live on the cloud. My CDs are as modern as I want to be right now. I actually love listening to my hand crank Edison phonograph. ■

### NCFR REPORT - A MEMBER FORUM

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

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

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

# 2013 NCFR Annual Conference and 75th Anniversary Celebration



by Judith Fischer, Program Chair, [judith.fischer@ttu.edu](mailto:judith.fischer@ttu.edu)

This year's conference is shaping up to be exciting, jam packed, and one to remember! The 2013 theme is "Well-Being of Children and Youth in Families and Communities." The conference theme is carried out with plenary sessions on media, communities, the meaning of well-being, and LGBTQ youth. Special sessions and invited symposia take attendees to many places and issues, such as: Honduras, prisons, the myth of closure, the history of NCFR, feminist research, family scholarship, health disparities, NIH grant submission, and leadership training, among other topics. In addition to the plenary speakers below, special sessions and invited symposia include presentations with, among others, Katherine Allen, Pauline Boss, Dudley Chancey, Mary Jo Czaplowski and Jason Samuels, Patricia Hyjer Dyk, Michael Kimmel, Stephen Kogan, Richard Lerner, Kyriakos Markides, Beth Quill and Joyce Arditti, Amelie Ramirez, and Anisa Zvonkovic.

## Plenary sessions Involving Community Members (Promotors) in Children's Well-Being

America Bracho, M.D., MPH, is Executive Director, Latino Health Access, a center for health promotion and disease prevention located in Santa Ana, California. This center was created under her leadership to assist with the multiple health needs of Latinos in Orange County. Latino Health Access facilitates mechanisms of empowerment for the Latino community and uses participatory approaches to community health education. The programs train community health workers as leaders of wellness and change. Dr. Bracho worked as a physician in her native Venezuela for several years, after which she came to the U.S. to obtain a master's degree in public health at the University of Michigan. Her public health specialty is health education and health behavior. After completing her master's program, Dr. Bracho created and directed the AIDS projects for Latino Family Services in Detroit, Michigan, integrating HIV education with programs addressing the need for jobs, parenting classes, women health services, drug treatment, among others.



She has been a trainer, presenter and consultant for numerous government and private agencies around the nation. She has served on a number of boards and advisory committees and has been a consultant for the Pan American Health Organization. She is recognized at the local, regional and national levels as an expert in the area of Latino health issues, health education, minority women, cultural competency, community organizing, diabetes education and HIV. She has received numerous awards for her contributions. Sponsored by the University of Illinois.

## What is Child Well-Being? Does It Matter How We Measure It?

Kristin Moore, Ph.D., is a Senior Scholar and Senior Program Area Director for Youth Development at Child Trends. Dr. Moore received her Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Michigan. She has been with Child Trends since 1982, studying trends in child and family well-being, adolescent development, the effects of family structure and social change on children, the determinants and consequences of adolescent parenthood, the effects of poverty and welfare on children, fathers, and positive development. Dr. Moore has been involved in evaluations of outcomes for children in welfare reform and healthy marriage, as well as teen childbearing; and she is currently leading evaluations of trauma-focused care for children in the foster care system, a parenting program for Latinos, and a soccer plus nutrition program called Soccer for Success. In addition, she is leading a Child Trends team in the development of an evidence-informed program to prevent teen pregnancy among Latinos. Moore was the founding chair of the Effective Programs and Research Task Force for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and served as a member of the initial Board of Directors. She currently serves on advisory boards for a number of organizations including several for the Department of Health and Human Services. Sponsored by Auburn University.



## Mitigating Media's Harmful Effects on Youth: The Importance of Proactive Parenting and Counterspeech

Deana Pollard Sacks, J.D., L.L.M., is the Roberson King Professor of Law at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University. In 2012-2013 she was Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center. She received her J.D. from the University of Southern California and her L.L.M. from the University of California-Berkeley. She has served on a number of community and professional boards. Her research and teaching interests include torts, property, constitutional law, developmental psychology and first amendment law, children's constitutional rights, mediation, and law practice management. Recent publications concerning children and constitutional law include "State Actors Beating Children: A Call For Judicial Relief," 42 UC Davis L. Rev. 1165 (2009) and "Constitutionalized Negligence," 89 Wash. U. L. Rev. 1065 (2012). She has published in numerous other law reviews, including the *Yale Law Journal Online*, the *Minnesota Law Review*, and the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, and has been involved in state and federal legislative efforts to ban the practice of school paddling. She has appeared on television and radio on many occasions and is a contributing author of the recently released book, *Implicit Racial Bias Across the Law* (2012). Sponsored by the University of Minnesota.



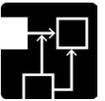
## LGBTQ Youth Well-Being: The Role of Parents and Policy

Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., is the Distinguished Professor and Fitch Nesbitt Endowed Chair in Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona and serves as the Interim Director of the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences. He is the current President of the Society for Research on Adolescence. He received a Ph.D. in sociology from Duke



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# Research and Theory Section news



by Thomas Holman, Chair, [Thomas\\_Holman@byu.edu](mailto:Thomas_Holman@byu.edu)

I am excited to report to members of the Research and Theory section that we will have a large number of extremely good sessions at the NCFR annual conference this fall. We will cosponsor (with TCRM) a Special Session with Dr. Richard Lerner, the Bergstrom Chair and Director of Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts

University. We are also cosponsoring (with the Student/New Professional section) a three-hour NIH Grant Writing 101 Workshop conducted by Dr. Steven M. Kogan from the University of Georgia.

Our Invited Symposium this year will be a report of the Recommendations of the Quality Research Commission. Members of

the panel will be Abbie E. Goldberg, Ralph LaRossa, Kevin Roy, Elizabeth Sharp, and Anisa Zvonkovic and they will share recommendations based on their year-long work. I expect a lively, informative discussion that will contribute to the future of qualitative research and publishing in family studies.

I accepted nine symposiums—a record I believe—for inclusion in our program. They will include panel discussions of extensions of the family stress model, two on family relationships and youth in military families, Mexican-American family relationships in established and emerging immigrant communities, parenting of toddlers, marital attitudes and beliefs across the life course, fathering in complex families, and finances, family relations, and child/adolescent well-being. Each of these is led by established and emerging scholars and I expect great insights for researchers and practitioners alike.

We will have six paper sessions on parenting under diverse conditions, parents' and friends' impact of adolescent outcomes, family processes in families with adolescents, children and adolescents in step-families, predicting marital satisfaction, and qualitative insights into divorce's impact on children. We will have a new feature in our poster sessions.

We will have three what we call “poster symposiums” on the topics of co-parenting, factors influencing couple relationships, and military families. Anywhere from five to seven posters on each of those topics will be placed together and the poster authors will have read and studied the presentations of the other poster presenters, thus allowing them to integrate their posters' findings with the other posters in their group. This should lead to a lively discussion among poster presenters and with visitors to the posters. Besides these poster symposiums, we will have another 40 to 50 posters on topics like media and technology and the family, biogenetics and the family, dating and mate selection, emerging adults, violence and abuse, multi-racial families, and much, much more.

Please plan to join me and my wife in beautiful San Antonio, Texas (where we lived right after we married 41 years ago!) for what will be an exciting and energizing conference. ■

## Religion and Family Life Section



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

Greetings from the Religion and Family Life Section! We have several items to report from our section this quarter. One of the most significant is that there were 33 proposals submitted for the 2013 annual conference in San Antonio. This reflects a 40% increase in submissions since 2011, and we are pleased with both the quantity and the quality of the proposals.

I hope you saw the Winter 2012 Family Focus Section of the Report. Nancy Gonzalez and Chris Gonzalez (not related) did an excellent job of putting together a variety of articles from scholars and practitioners who focus their work around family and spirituality. This is our section's first attempt in working towards our goal of establishing a journal on family, religion and spirituality. Our next step will be to solicit a special section in a journal.

Our section bibliography is now available online. It can be accessed through the Pro-

fessional Resource Library or the Religion and Family Life Section webpage, both on the NCFR website. Articles and books are grouped by topics and the bibliography includes some of the major publications on religion and family from the early 1990s through 2010. We would like to update the bibliography, so if you know of publications that should be included, especially those since 2010, please send them to me via email at [jroberts@hsutx.edu](mailto:jroberts@hsutx.edu).

New section officers were recently elected. Julie Zaloudek, University of Wisconsin-Stout, is the new chair elect; Marianne Miller, Alliant International University, is the secretary-treasurer; and Greg Brooks, University of Missouri, is the SNP representative. They will assume their new positions after the section business meeting at the 2013 annual conference. Congratulations to all of you! ■

### 2013 conference *continued from page 8*

University. His research is guided by an interest in creating social change to support healthy adolescent development. His research has been used to shape local and state policies and laws for school safety. His areas of expertise are: adolescent sexuality, sexual orientation and identity, adolescent health, and parent-adolescent relationships. He has a long record of external funding from such entities as NIH and the Ford Foundation. He has been honored for his mentoring, faculty contributions, and scholarship. Sponsored by the University of Georgia.

#### 75th Anniversary Address *Revolution in Intimate Life and Relationships in the Past 75 Years*

Stephanie Coontz, faculty at The Evergreen

State College, Co-Chair and Director of Public Education at the Council on Contemporary Families, and leading family researcher and author will deliver

a special presentation at the 2013 annual conference. Her session is the lead-off event for the NCFR 75th anniversary celebration. Sponsored by the University of Maryland.

#### NCFR 75th Anniversary Celebration

The official NCFR 75th anniversary recognition event, starting late afternoon on Friday and including anniversary reception, anniversary program, and fiesta dinner. Sponsored by Texas Tech University. ■



# Family Science Section is forging a new identity



by Bahira Sherif Trask, University of Delaware, [bstrask@UDel.edu](mailto:bstrask@UDel.edu)

I write this short piece on the eve of having just assigned reviewers to proposals submitted for our annual NCFR conference. Strikingly, over half the proposals submitted belong in other sections, most commonly Research and Theory. We received papers that ranged in topics from computer dating satisfaction to the trials and tribulations of military families to bullying and aggression in schools. Most of these submissions had little to do with each other and would not have even lent themselves to topically coherent panels of papers and poster sessions.

This conundrum has led me to reflect on previous discussions at NCFR meetings about the identity of the Family Science Section: should we be a grab bag for anything within the family field or should we re-focus and concentrate on pedagogical and administrative concerns.

Based on what I have heard at various discussions by the membership and my own inclinations, I vote for the latter path. We need a forum where the pedagogical features of the field get discussed. Moreover, it is imperative that we also learn from each other about the challenges our field is currently facing in the highly volatile higher education context--and which strategies work best to preserve and help our family

studies/family science departments flourish. For instance, at some universities across the United States, family science/family studies departments are being phased out. However, in other settings, family science / family studies departments are thriving and considered the model for other fields. We need dialogue around these sorts of issues and not simply deal in isolation with our trials and successes. Having a section that focuses exclusively on pedagogical and administrative concerns helps us to collectively address some of the issues that are critical to the field.

Re-focusing the Family Science Section accomplishes two important goals: (1) it provides a forum for NCFR members that are concerned with the day-to-day actualities of teaching, and (2) it provides a central arena of debate for addressing the practical departmental and university concerns so many of us deal with on a daily basis. As a section we have already informally agreed to move in this direction. However, in order to really accomplish the task of more clearly delineating the identity of the section, I believe that we need a new name. I, thus, welcome suggestions sent out to the membership over the family science listserv. I look forward to a discussion of this topic and our potential new name over the next several months. ■

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## Issues in Aging Focus Group news

by Jeremy Yorgason, Chair, [jeremy\\_yorgason@byu.edu](mailto:jeremy_yorgason@byu.edu)

Although we are several months out from the annual NCFR conference, I wanted to share some exciting news about a Special Session that has been planned for the conference.

Dr. Kyriakos Markides will be presenting a Special Session on Latino(a) families in later life. Dr. Markides is well known for his research on aging Latino(a) families, as he is the principal investigator of a longitudinal study of health among nearly 4,000 Mexican Americans living in the Southwest.

He is the current editor of the *Journal of Aging and Health* and is the Director of the Division of Socio-medical Sciences within the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. We are fortunate that Dr. Markides is able to travel

from Galveston to San Antonio to present his research to us.

This Special Session is co-sponsored by the Issues in Aging Focus Group (within the Families and Health Section) as well as the Latino(a) Research Focus Group (within the Ethnic Minorities Section). This Special Session will provide a unique opportunity for NCFR members to learn more about Latino(a) families. I hope that as the conference draws closer and you plan which sessions to attend, that this one will be on your list!

*Editor's note:* For those interested in aging, I draw your attention to an upcoming issue of *NCFR Report* on the theme of aging. The deadline for articles is September 21, 2013. Write the editor for submission guidelines at [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org). ■

# Family Therapy Section news



by Christi McGeorge, PhD, Chair, [christine.mcgeorge@nds.u.edu](mailto:christine.mcgeorge@nds.u.edu)

The Family Therapy Section will be awarding the second Kathleen Briggs Award at the 2013 NCFR annual conference. The purpose of the Kathleen Briggs Award is to recognize an outstanding mentor of students and new professionals in the area of family therapy. This will be done in honor of Dr. Kathleen Briggs, a long-time Family Therapy Section member and leader, who was committed to mentoring family therapy graduate students and new professionals. The award recipient will be selected based on his/her contributions to the professional and personal development of graduate students/new professionals and his/her involvement and demonstrated leadership in field of family therapy.

Criteria for the award are below:

- Member of NCFR
- Contributes to the professional and academic development of graduate students/new professionals in the field of family therapy
- Participates in mentoring activities
- Provides a nurturing environment for graduate students/new professionals
- Promotes the involvement of graduate students/new professionals in scholarly activities
- Demonstrates leadership in the field through active research and/or service

A nomination letter should provide specific examples of how the nominee meets the above criteria. A minimum of two additional letters supporting the nomination must be provided. Letters for nominations can come from students, new professionals or other senior colleagues. At least two of the letters of support must be from students or new professionals.

Nominations should be sent to Dr. Christi McGeorge, Family Therapy Section Chair, at [christine.mcgeorge@nds.u.edu](mailto:christine.mcgeorge@nds.u.edu) by May 1, 2013. Please also contact Dr. Christi McGeorge or Family Therapy Section chair-elect Dr. Shayne Anderson ([shaynea@gmail.com](mailto:shaynea@gmail.com)) if you have questions. ■

# Inclusion and Diversity Committee

by Maresa Janee Murray and Donna L. Sollie, Co-Chairs, [marjmurr@indiana.edu](mailto:marjmurr@indiana.edu), [sollidl@auburn.edu](mailto:sollidl@auburn.edu)

Greetings to all. We wanted to take this opportunity to give you some updates on the work of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC). We are pleased to announce that we have completed initial analyses from the fall 2012 survey of NCFR members “NCFR Inclusion and Diversity Member Survey.” We want to warmly and officially thank all of you who participated in the survey. Your input is critical for identifying strengths and areas of growth as we all work toward our goal of creating an inclusive organization that recognizes and values the importance of the diversity that our membership brings to NCFR. Your feedback helps us to understand experiences of current members, and informs future goals of diversity and inclusion in the organization.

The IDC meets twice a year--during the annual NCFR conference and again in the spring--in addition to conference calls

throughout the year. During our recent April meeting of the IDC, the primary agenda item was finalizing an executive summary of the survey results to be presented to the NCFR Board of Directors at their May meeting. This summary included specific suggestions from the IDC for next steps to be taken as we incorporate the survey results into plans for meeting the goals and objectives that are the charge of the IDC.

Thanks to Yan Ruth Xia, Jacki Fitzpatrick, and Soyoung Lee, the sub-committee members who took on the yeoman’s task of data analysis and summary. They dedicated significant time and effort to this task, and led the discussion of implications of the meaning of the survey results.

Thanks also to Yan Ruth Xia and William Allen for presenting the survey results to the NCFR Board of Directors during their May meeting.

The IDC welcomes input and comments from the NCFR members, so please share your thoughts and suggestions with us. Please go to the NCFR website and review materials that the IDC has compiled, including the NCFR Board of Directors approved Definition of Diversity, NCFR Guiding Principles for Diversity, IDC Policies and Procedures, and IDC NCFR Report articles. View the IDC documents at <http://www.ncfr.org/about/board-and-governance/ncfr-board-directors/board-committees/inclusion-diversity-committee>.

And as you plan your schedule for November, please join us at our third annual IDC Continental Breakfast and Active Conversation on Diversity and Inclusion, entitled “Reminiscing on Our IDC History and Moving Forward with our Future,” 7:45-9:15 a.m. on Friday, November 8. The highlight of the session will be a presentation of the history of diversity in NCFR. ■

## 2013 elected officers *continued from page 2*

Feminism and Family Studies, Research and Theory, Family and Health Sections; Secretary and Vice-President (President-elect) of Tech Council for Family Relations: Graduate Chapter.

Rachel’s message: “NCFR has been a foundational part of my professional development over the past four years and I am honored to have been selected for this position. As the SNP Board Representative-elect, I will focus on: (1) strengthening the presence and identity of SNPs within the organization; (2) emphasizing the SNP group as a forum for mutual support, collaboration, and professional development; and (3) the strategic development of resources and activities aimed at expanding leadership development and professional mentoring. I look forward to promoting the organizational goals of NCFR and the SNP mission.”

### Elections Council 2013-2016

**Gladys J. Hildreth, Ph.D., CFLE**, Professor and Senior Lecturer, Department of Educational Psychology at the University of North Texas and

**Mick Cunningham, Ph.D.**, Professor of Sociology and Chair of Department of Sociology, Western Washington University

### Fellows Committee 2013-2016

**Katherine Allen, Ph.D.**, Professor of

Human Development at Virginia Tech  
**Linda M. Burton, Ph.D.**, James B. Duke Professor of Sociology, Duke University

### Inclusion and Diversity Committee

**Chair-elect** (Chair-elect 2013-2014; IDC Chair 2014-2016)

**Soyoung Lee, Ph.D., CFLE**, Assistant Professor of Family and Child Studies, Montclair State University

### Inclusion and Diversity Members-at-large 2013-2016

**Ruben Viramontez Anguiano, Ph.D., CFLE**, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Bowling Green State University

**Katherine A. Kovalanka, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Family Studies, Miami University, Ohio

### Inclusion and Diversity Students and New Professionals Representative 2013-2016

**Anthony G. James, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Family Studies and Social Work, Miami University, Ohio

### SECTION OFFICERS 2013-2016

Family Policy Section:

**Brenda J. Lohman, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect;  
**Anne F. Farrell, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer;  
**Morgan Cooley, MSW RCSWI**, Students/New Professionals Representative

Feminism and Family Studies Section:  
**Shannon E. Weaver, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect;  
**Crystal Duncan Lane, Ph.D., CFLE**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Lorien Jordan, MFT** and **Samantha Nielsen, MS**, Students/New Professionals Representatives

International Section:

**Yan Ruth Xia, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect; **Toni Hill, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Vanja Lazarevic, Ph.D.**, Students/New Professionals Representative

Religion and Family Life Section:

**Julie A. Zaloudek, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect;  
**Marianne M. Miller, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Greg Brooks, M.S.**, Students/New Professionals Representative

Research and Theory Section:

**Joan Jurich, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect; **Brian Ogolsky, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer;  
**Shannon Corkery, M.S., ABD**, Students/New Professionals Representative

### Governance

The Articles of Incorporation revision was approved. “The name of the organization as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, The National Council on Family Relations is hereby changed to National Council on Family Relations.” ■

# Meet your Students/New Professionals Representatives



Without a doubt, NCFR is the professional home to some of the most accomplished students and new professionals in the field. We want to highlight these accomplishments and feature the amazing work that our SNPs are doing. If you'd like to be featured in a future report, please contact Lyndal Khaw, SNP Board Representative at [khawl@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:khawl@mail.montclair.edu).

To start this series, let us introduce members of the current SNP Steering Committee, including their research interests, advice to SNPs and acknowledgement of their mentors.

## Lyndal Khaw, SNP Board Representative

*Current position:* Assistant Professor, Montclair State University  
*Education:* Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies, University of Illinois, 2010

*My research:* I study intimate partner violence (IPV), specifically on the process of leaving abusive partners among mothers. When I began my graduate career, I noticed that a lot of the research focused more on why women stay in abusive relationships rather than why and how they leave. I was intrigued with understanding women's strengths and survivorship from a feminist perspective. In my dissertation study, I used qualitative methods to understand the relational and structural changes in family dynamics and decision-making as women engaged in the process of leaving.



Currently, in addition to collaborating with my grad school mentor, I am still analyzing and publishing data from my dissertation study. My interviews yielded tons of rich contextual data! I am interested to explore the process of leaving in other samples, such as with immigrant women.

*Advice for SNPs:* Seek mentors in your department, and seek them early in your graduate or professional careers. Their advice, support, and insights are so invaluable. My mentor is the amazing Dr. Jennifer Hardesty, and I honestly do not know if I would have survived grad school without her.

## Ronald B. Cox, Jr., SNP Program Representative

*Current position:* Assistant Professor, Oklahoma State University  
*Education:* Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy, Michigan State University, 2007



*My research:* My research generally focuses on the prevention of high-risk behaviors among adolescents in Latino families and specifically on the family and environmental processes that shape behavior and on translating this research into effective programs. A secondary but related area is how to strengthen causal inferences from non-experimental data. There is a wide-spread misconception in our field that longitudinal is equal to causal. However, most studies using longitudinal data sets do not have a randomly assigned control group, which means that their findings are based on correlations. So, I study variables linked to Latino adolescent high-risk behaviors and the study designs that will lead to stronger causal inferences in my findings. I became interested in Latino youth because I spent most of my adult life living in South America, and in high-risk behaviors in youth because I have observed that family and other environmental variables are linked to multiple negative outcomes in youth.

I am finishing a project that looks at antecedents to high school dropout rates among minority youth. In this project we surveyed every child in the 7th grade and are following them through their senior year. Based on some of our initial findings I am currently writing a grant to test a dropout prevention intervention. We are also looking at cross-over effects. That is, how could that intervention affect other areas such as substance use and teen pregnancy.

*Advice for SNPs:* Spend a significant portion of your time systematically investigating a field of study, so that one of your first publications is a conceptual/theoretical review or a meta-analysis of literature. These publications are often some of the most cited and will build your career at a faster pace than

separate empirical articles. Find a mentor that is where you want to be in the next 10 years and work with that person. My current mentor is Joe Grzywacz. Joe is an accomplished researcher with numerous NIH grants, which is what I aspire to become.

## Claire Kimberly, SNP Affiliate Councils Board Representative

*Current position:* Assistant Professor, University of Southern Mississippi  
*Education:* Ph.D. in Family Sciences, University of Kentucky, 2012

*My research:* My research interest revolves around family communication. In particular, I enjoy looking at topics that families either do not typically discuss or have difficulty in communicating their opinions about. Thus my research has included an array of topics such as family finances, sexuality, marital conflict, and grieving. My path toward doing research was unusual. I originally planned to be a marriage and family therapist but realized that this was not a good fit for me. I continued with a master's degree in family sciences and had the fortunate opportunity to observe faculty members focused on research at the University of Kentucky. The thrill of having questions and understanding how to answer them shifted my focus to research. Before graduating from the University of Kentucky, I was honored with the 2012 Graduate Student of Distinction Award. I have also been fortunate to receive a grant from the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality on a project entitled "Understanding Sexual Self-Disclosure."



I have a handful of projects going on right now. My dissertation analyzing the biopsychosocial characteristics surrounding marital conflict is currently under review. I am also co-authoring a study examining sexual self-disclosure that involves interviewing swingers. Other studies include looking at virginal expectations of sexuality, influence of viewing pornography, and the impact of father's presence to later sexual behaviors.

*Advice for SNPs:* The best advice I have for students is to take up as many opportuni-

*new representatives continued on page 13*

ties as you can. Do not be afraid to ask your professors for research or teaching opportunities. Even projects that I initially considered to be trivial have really helped me in the long run. If it were not for my mentors at the University of Kentucky, I would not be where I am today. I particularly benefitted from the research expertise and mentoring of Drs. Jason Hans and Ron Werner-Wilson.

Ironically, the advice I have for new professionals is to limit what you do. Personally I find that there is a constant feeling that what I am doing is not enough. Even though working hard is expected, we should not forget the value of personal and familial health.

**Sterling Wall, SNP Affiliate Councils Student Affiliate Advisor Representative**

*Current position:* Professor, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

*Education:* Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies, Auburn University, 2003

*My research:* My research interests originally stemmed from interest in improving marital quality. I was interested not just in “satisfied” marriages, but “thriving” marriages. Toward that end



my early research focused on gender role attitudes, emotional intelligence, and Gottman’s concept of marital friendship. Since then my research has diverged, especially as I work with students. For example, one student is leading intervention to Cameroon, Africa, bringing clean water to villages in need. Another studied young adults whose parents have divorced and their attitudes towards marriage. (Were those young adults jaded against marriage or inspired to work harder? It was the latter, by the way). But now I find my interests actually converging, once again, on marital quality. I see an intersection that I would like to explore between the emotional domain of marriage and male gender role attitudes (especially those that I see standing on the other side of the road when we travel to Central America on student service learning trips) and the culture of consumption that emphasizes valuing material things over human relationships.

I’ve collected data and journals from students over the last few years before, during, and after the service learning trips I lead to

Mexico, Nicaragua, and now to the Lakota Reservation in South Dakota. Their stories are fascinating, how these experiences impact them personally. I would like to start compiling and telling their stories to inspire others to make a difference on a global level and to understand fully the personal benefits that accrue to those who serve.

*Advice for SNPs:* A tip on surviving grad school, and you just need to understand this: you “want” your research to be in line with your major professor’s. To assume that your major professor is going to read up on dozens of articles outside his or her current field of research/interest just to be able to mentor you is a tall assumption. Do not go AWOL. As idealistic and exciting as that sounds, it means one of two things is going to happen.

Either (a) your work will be rubber stamped, since your prof does not have expertise or interest in your area, or (b) your advisor will shred your work, perhaps so that you feel you are getting your money’s worth. Just know that going into it and have realistic expectations and maybe it will help to ease some of the frustration.

At the risk of sounding trite, I am going to say that my favorite mentor has been my students. If I define a mentor as someone who helps to open my mind to new possibilities, new ways of looking at things, new approaches, my students have by far been the most influential in challenging, and inspiring, me to look at all aspects of the world in new ways. May they keep questioning and pushing the edge of the envelope! ■

## On the bookshelf

*On the Bookshelf* is a news column intended to build community by letting colleagues know about new books by fellow members. Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by NCFR. To submit your book for consideration in the next *On the Bookshelf* column, at least one author must be an NCFR member and the announcement will be published once. Send your submission in the exact format of this listing to [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org)



Meg Wilkes Karraker. *Global Families*. 2013. Sage

Robert E. Larzelere, Amanda Sheffield Morris, Amanda W Harrist, (Eds.) (2013).

*Authoritative Parenting: Synthesizing Nurturance and Discipline for Optimal Child Development*. American Psychological Association Press

Nancy Landale, Susan McHale, Alan Booth (Eds.). *Families and Child Health*. 2013. Springer

Linda Nielson. *Father-Daughter Relationships: Contemporary Research and Issues*. 2012. Routledge

Brian Ogolsky, Sally Lloyd, Rodney Cate. *The Developmental Course of Romantic Relationships*. 2013. Routledge Academic Press

C.J. Patterson, A.R. D’Augelli (Eds.) *Handbook of Psychology and Sexual Orientation*. 2013. Oxford University Press

Robbyn R. Wacker, Karen A. Roberto. *Community Resources for Older Adults: Programs and Services in an Era of Change* (fourth edition). Sage

## cfle directions continued from page 5

teens do. She knew nothing about adolescent brain development but commented on how helpful the analogy was. She vowed to research the topic as soon as she got home.

As I left the grocery store I thought about the fact that every parent of a teenager should know about adolescent brain development. The graphs shown by Dr. Steinberg indicated that children ages 13-18 years are at the highest risk for suicide, unintended pregnancy, substance abuse, drowning, and car accidents. If every parent knew how to

parent effectively during those critical years they could all breathe a little easier on that 19th birthday.

But as family professionals we know that already. And we know that family life education can give parents the information they need to parent effectively and keep their children safe. Our challenge is to continue to spread the word about the importance and value of family life education. NCFR and the CFLE program are here to address that challenge. ■

# News from the Minnesota Council on Family Relations

by Mary Maher, President, [mary.maher@comcast.net](mailto:mary.maher@comcast.net)

Each year at our fall conference, MCFR presents two awards. We were honored to present Dr. Pauline Boss the MCFR Friend of the Family award for her work on behalf of families confronting ambiguous loss in its many forms. We paid special tribute to her dedication to educating professionals and students in family-related fields. Dr. Boss continues to oversee research and write books on this topic to improve the profession's knowledge of and response to loss and grief. Her most recent publication is *Loving Someone Who Has Dementia: How To Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief*. She is also a longtime donor to the MCFR Silent Auction in support of student scholarships. For more information on Dr. Boss and her work please visit [ambiguousloss.com](http://ambiguousloss.com).

A second award honors the life of Ruth Hathaway Jewson and her distinguished service to families and family professionals through a long tenure of leadership in

MCFR and NCFR from the 1950s to the 1980s. Last fall the award went to Beth Yokom who exemplifies a skilled practitioner, scholarly professional and active leader in the field of family education. Currently, Beth works for the Anoka-Hennepin School district supervising staff and programs for Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and School Readiness Preschool in the Blaine and eastern Coon Rapids areas of the school district.

Beth taught parents in the Mounds View Early Childhood Family Education and Even Start Family Learning Program for 14 years. She was a finalist for National Family Literacy teacher of the year. She also co-wrote publications in the field of family literacy for the Minnesota Department Education and served as a presenter at regional and national conferences.

She helped to develop Minnesota's Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework: A

Comprehensive Guide to Planning Curriculum for Parent Education Programs. She wrote the curriculum for and presented at many of the state's regional workshops on the framework. In addition, Beth was in a small group of parent educators who studied at the University of Minnesota with Mary Scott and the late Ruth Thomas to become a Reflective Dialogue Associate which led to additional regional workshops.

Finally we are grateful that Beth provided leadership to MCFR through nearly 10 years of service as secretary, president and treasurer. She led the development of a new MCFR logo and brochure and currently serves as an Ethical Thinking and Practice workshop presenter.

Caring for families and developing professional excellence are hallmarks of Beth's work. We were pleased to have her accept the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award. ■



## ILCFR Affiliate Update: 2013 Annual Conference

by Kimi Crossman and Elissa Thomann Mitchell

The Illinois Council on Family Relations held its annual conference on April 12 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign, Illinois. The theme was "Family Well-being" and we welcomed proposals on any aspect of well-being (e.g., physical, mental, social, emotional, spiritual). We kicked off the conference with keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara Fiese, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and Director of the Family Resiliency Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr.

Fiese's talk, "Child and Family Health and Wellbeing: From the Family Table to Public Policy," was a great start to our day of informative sessions.

Other breakout sessions focused on the well-being of young children, emerging adults and adolescent issues, healthy families and fathering, and substance abuse issues. A special afternoon session featured research posters from universities and research centers from around the state as well as booths to spotlight local organizations and agencies that serve

Illinois families. We also had interactive workshops on a variety of issues including how Alzheimer's disease affects the family, working with difficult youth, and online family life education. Our program featured a variety of speakers and perspectives, including researchers, practitioners, and graduate and undergraduate students.

Awards were given at the conference. Colleen Gibbons won the Outstanding Student Research

Award, Lisa Taylor Moyer won the Faculty Mentor Award,

Jill Bowers won the Helen Gum Westlake Distinguished Member Award, and Axton Betz-Hamilton won the Outstanding Service Award. We also conducted a business meeting and our new officers took their positions. The new Executive Board includes Kimi Crossman and Elissa Thomann Mitchell, Co-Presidents; Axton Betz-Hamilton, President-Elect and Conference Chair; Bernadette Collins, Treasurer; Laura Lucas, Secretary; and Linda Dersheid, Membership Chair.

Program evaluations were very positive and the conference was well attended with approximately 70 people from around the state. Continuing education units were offered for licensed social workers, therapists, and CFLEs. Please visit our website ([il.ncfr.org](http://il.ncfr.org)) for more information, including the full program and links to presentations from the conference. ■



*Sarah Curtiss spoke about online family life education.*



*Jill Bowers (left) received the ILCFR distinguished member award from Colleen Gibbons.*



# Wisconsin Council's Annual Conference

by Amanda Smith, UCFR Public Relations Officer

The fourth annual WICFR state conference, April 11-13, at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells was a great success. The event started with a community service project on Thursday afternoon involving family life educators and students from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, University of Wisconsin Stout, and the University of Saint Thomas. About 25 students participated in a food drive for the local food pantry. The weather was miserable but the experience was still an amazing one. We stood in the cold, wet rain and kindly greeted people as they entered two local grocery stores and notified them that we were taking either items or cash donations for the food pantry. The money that was donated was used to buy items in the store that were most needed by the food pantry. We collected three carts of food and collected \$150 used to buy more items.

Thursday evening about 80 students attended presentations and heard from other students about their experiences studying

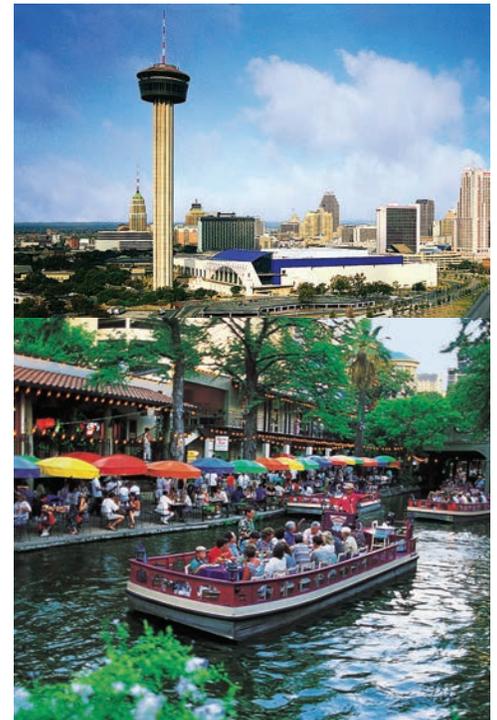
abroad in Africa, Nicaragua, and Jamaica. Another presentation covered Chinese family culture and featured instructor Cuiting Li and her parents.

Friday featured two great keynote speakers. John Munson spoke on success, personal well-being and not giving up on your dreams. The second presentation was by Joe Grzywacz, who shared his research on health implications of everyday life and work.

Additional sessions covered mentoring, community outreach programs and a stress-relieving activity based on "meditative drumming." Saturday sessions featured presentations by UWSP and UW Stout participants on research studies, child and family occupations, and graduate school. ■



*UW-Stevens Point students conducted a food drive as part of the WICFR conference.*



# Utah Council's 2013 Annual Conference

On April 5, the UTCFR held its annual conference on the Utah Valley University Campus. The theme of the conference was "Family Studies in the Community." Dr. Alan Hawkins was the keynote speaker and addressed 20-plus years of court-mandated

mediation for divorcing couples who still had dependent children. He also identified future trends and research possibilities in divorce.

Another talk was given by Jacci Graham and Anna-Lee Hernandez, the social workers who built the Utah Grandfamilies Kinship Care Center which the state has adopted and is implementing in every county in the state.

The remainder of the program was student-focused with a poster symposium and then a graduate school fair. There were 27 posters presented by doctoral, master's, and undergraduate students from Utah and Idaho universities. Three local charter high school students worked diligently and successfully presented a poster alongside the others. In all there were 77 student poster presenters. The focus on solving communi-



*UTCFR conference keynote speaker Alan Hawkins*

ty problems as Family Studies majors was a success. Ron J. Hammond, Ph.D. Conference Chair said, "We received many emails and comments of gratitude from faculty and students who found the conference to be both enlightening and personally moving." There were 136 faculty and students in attendance. ■



*Anna-Lee Hernandez and Jacci Graham, Utah Grandfamilies Kinship Care.*



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