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International Intimate Partner Violence

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Perspectives from around the world—Sweden, Mexico, Kenya, Turkey, China, more

Next issue: Dating and Mate Selection



Annual Conference 2014 Baltimore, Maryland November 19-22

November 18 – Preconference Workshops

Students and New Professionals + Professional Development Workshops

This year's conference features several workshops focused on career options, research skills development and insights, and the importance of translational research in studying and serving families. See page 4.

Preconference Workshops – Tuesday, November 18

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Family Science Report

The adventure begins

Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Public Affairs, National Council on Family Relations, jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org

For those of you who don't know me yet, I've been NCFR's Director of Public Affairs since January. During this time many new exciting activities have begun at NCFR that I'd like to share with you through this new, regular column, "Family Science Report." My hope is to convey to you how NCFR is advancing policy, career resources, research, the discipline of Family Science including Family Life Education, and more—one topic at a time.

First, I want to share a little about my professional background and current responsibilities at NCFR. In 2005, I earned my Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from Auburn University. From Auburn, I went to the University of Nebraska - Kearney (UNK) for 8.5 years, where I became a tenured Associate Professor. While at UNK, I conducted scholarly research on the impacts parents have on child and adolescent delinquency and taught multiple courses (e.g., Family Policy, Parent and Family Life Education, Marriage and Family Relations). I also was engaged in service and advised the UNK Council on Family Relation's student organization, facilitated a marriage and relationship education evidence-based program, and developed internships for Family Science students. My new position at NCFR provides me an opportunity to

pursue my passion for family policy and the Family Science discipline as well as to return home to Minnesota.

As the Director of Public Affairs, I have the pleasure of advancing NCFR's policy initiatives, professional development and career resources, and the Family Science discipline, including Family Life Education. I'm also the Family Focus Managing Editor for *NCFR Report*, NCFR's member news magazine. While these are some of my major responsibilities, my experience and education are put to use in multiple ways working with my wonderful new colleagues at NCFR. As our efforts progress, I look forward to getting to know you. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself at the 2014 NCFR Annual Conference in Baltimore, or send me an email. As I continually told my students, "My door is always open." Let me now extend that philosophy to you.

Advancing NCFR's policy initiatives

For the first installment of Family Science Report, I'd like to share updates regarding NCFR's policy initiatives. We've created

the adventure begins continued on page 6



JENNIFER
CROSSWHITE

New this issue, "Crafting Scholarship"

An insider's guide to improving your professional writing by Robert Milardo, Ph.D., NCFR Fellow and the founding editor of the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, who has over 35 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic writing. "Crafting Scholarship" is a regular *NCFR Report* column where Bob addresses insights useful to anyone engaged

in scholarly work and journal article preparation. His new book, *Crafting Scholarship in the Behavioral and Social Sciences*, provides a comprehensive look at writing, editing, and reviewing processes in academic publishing. See page 9. ■



ROBERT MILARDO

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 issues, programs and trends, including association news.

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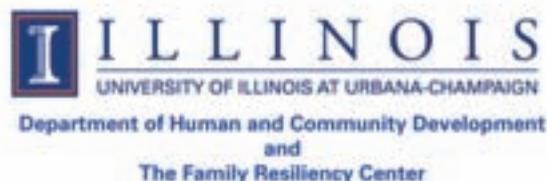
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What do we mean by family science?

Paul R. Amato, Ph.D., NCFR President, paulamato00@gmail.com

NCFR members have struggled at various times to figure out what we should call our field. Although “Family Science” is a commonly used term, a variety of contenders exist, as reflected in the many names of academic departments from which our members hail. Names have important symbolic value, and the labels we choose have implications for how we are perceived by university administrators, funding agencies, policy makers, the media, and the general public. Given the amount of interest in this topic at recent NCFR conference sessions, I thought I would share my personal views (for what they are worth) about the label of family science.

The physical sciences have been remarkably successful in helping us to comprehend nature. Only about a century after Galileo Galilei (the first modern scientist) conducted experiments with spheres and inclined planes to study the movement of objects through space, Isaac Newton published the *Principia* (1687), which accurately described the three fundamental laws of motion, provided the mathematical formula for gravity, and laid the foundation for our understanding of how the physical world works. The physical sciences progressed extremely rapidly once early scientists realized the importance of systematic observation and the usefulness of mathematics to summarize empirical regularities.

As 19th century philosophers like Auguste Comte argued, given that the physical sciences had succeeded so admirably, why not employ the same methods to understand social and behavioral phenomena? The idea that the boundaries of science could be expanded to incorporate the study of human behavior found enthusiastic adherents in the second half of the 19th century. And by the middle of the 20th century, the fields of psychology, economics, sociology, anthropology, political science, and family science had been established in university departments around the world.

Most supporters of the social sciences argue that a science is defined by its methods.

Although philosophers of science do not always agree, most claim that the scientific method includes the following steps: (a) observing the world and forming empirical generalizations, (b) constructing theories to explain these generalizations, (c) using deductive logic to derive hypotheses from these theories, (d) testing these hypotheses with new observations, and (e) refining theories on this basis. If the social sciences, including family science, follow these steps, then does it not follow that they are sciences?

Without adopting the methods of science, our “research” would not rise above the level of personal opinion.

One difficulty with this conclusion is that a science also can be defined by its success in producing experimentally verified knowledge about the world, usually expressed in the form of law-like principles. Although it is true that most family researchers follow the scientific method, there are fundamental differences between physical phenomena and human behavior. For one thing, objects and processes in the physical world display a striking degree of uniformity. All hydrogen atoms are identical and have the same properties. Light always travels at 186,000 miles per second. Everywhere in the universe, two objects will attract each other with a force directly proportional to their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. Consider the fact that on any given day, thousands of high school science teachers around the world conduct classroom experiments, and if these experiments are conducted carefully, they produce the same results every time. Moreover, physical laws can be described with such a high level of mathematical precision that predictions can be made with pinpoint accuracy.

In contrast to atoms, molecules, and chemical compounds, each person, family, society, and historical period is different. Each

human is unique at birth (due to the random shuffling of parental genes), and we become even more different from one another with each formative experience. Moreover, unlike physical phenomena, the causes of human behavior often involve intentions, goals, plans, and meanings. Because of this variability and the existence of agency, human behavior does not generally cohere into uniform patterns that can be described in law-like ways with a high level of precision.

These complications are reflected in the fact that research findings in the social sciences often do not replicate well. Does x lead to y? In many research areas, some studies will say “yes” and other studies will say “no.” Some studies may show that it holds for men but not women, for whites but not blacks, in some countries but not other countries, or in the past but not the present. Sometimes conclusions vary with the choice of data set, the ways in which x and y are measured, and the type of statistical model used to analyze the data. Unfortunately, this contradictory situation characterizes much of the research literature in our field.

No one ever said social science would be easy. Nevertheless, it is sobering to pause now and then and recognize that the social sciences, including family science, will never produce a body of knowledge comparable to what the physical sciences have achieved. This is not because of the relative newness of our field or the crudeness of our methods. This is because our subject matter is not amenable to the formulation of mathematically precise laws like we find in the physical sciences.

Given that the social sciences will never attain the precision and clarity of the physical sciences, does it still make sense to refer to our field as family science? I believe that it does, provided that we recognize that the term “science” is a metaphor. That is, we follow the methods of science as best we can, and we see how far that takes us. Our

president's report continued on page 6



NCFR Conference 2014 update

Catherine Solheim, Chair, Conference Program Committee, csolheim@umn.edu

I stopped over at NCFR headquarters in Minneapolis in late August to meet with staff about the November conference. Allison Wickler announced that it was only three months before the conference ... how exciting! Baltimore with its beautiful harbor promises to be an interesting city to explore.

The conference is shaping up to be stellar! I have had the privilege of working this past year with amazing section chairs who have embraced the theme with enthusiasm, *Families at the Nexus of Global Change*. I encourage you to explore the conference program to see the results of their efforts. You will find amazing sessions that explore research, theory, and practice related to families around the world--India, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Kenya, Tanzania, China, Taiwan, Afghanistan, and more.

In addition, there are excellent sessions planned that reflect the multi-faceted nature of family science scholarship focusing on topics including parenting, gender, couple relationships, adoption, health, adolescent development, economics, etc.

I look forward to hearing our plenary speakers challenge us as family scientists to think beyond geographic, cultural, economic, political, and disciplinary borders to consider families across the globe. I also look forward to marking the 20th anniversary of the United Nation's International Year of the Family at the 2014 conference.

Plan to join in the Friday night global gala with dessert and entertainment immediately following the University Receptions. I hope to see many of you in ethnic dress as we celebrate the rich cultural diversity of family expressed around the world. Look soon for an announcement of an international family photo contest! ■

2014 NCFR Annual Conference ~ November 19-22 ~ Hilton Baltimore A conference sampler...a taste of the 100-plus sessions scheduled this year

Education and Enrichment

- Pre-conference Workshop: Participatory Program Evaluation Practices to Support Public Policy (Tuesday)
- Focused Dialogue—Family Life Education
- Parent Education and Educators, At Home and Abroad (poster symposium)
- Economic Recovery: An FLE Approach to Addressing Financial Stress (symposium)

Ethnic Minorities

- Multi-racial Families (lightning paper)
- Transnational and Immigrant Families (symposium)
- African American Emerging Adults' Relational Experience (paper session)

Family Therapy

- Moving Beyond Ideology: My Journey Toward a Third Wave Intersectional Perspective of Intimate Partner Violence (Special Session with Sandra Stith)
- Training and Supervision in Family Therapy (paper session)
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Family Therapy (paper session)

Students and New Professionals

- So You Want to Address Poverty, Build Family Resiliency, and Fix the System: What You Need to Know First (Special Session with Kathryn Edin and Ron Haskins)
- Outside the Ivory Tower: Non-academic Jobs for Social Science Ph.D.s (workshop)
- Career Options for Bachelor/Master Degree Graduates (workshop)
- Engaging in the Fulbright Scholar Experience (workshop with Patricia Hyjer Dyk)
- Research With Marginalized Populations: Global Challenges and Processes (workshop)

International Section

- International Families Caught in Anti-immigrant Crosshairs: Trauma, Risk, and Resilience (symposium)
- International Families and Real World Challenges (lightning paper session)
- Mate Selection and Dating Across Cultures (poster symposium)
- Master's Degree in International Family Studies (Special Session)

Family Policy

- Marginalized Families in International Context: Working toward Inclusion, (Special Session)
- No Place Like Home: Family Mobility, Stability and Resilience (paper session)
- Early Childhood Education and Child Care Policies (poster symposium)
- Diverse Families and Globalization: Legal and Policy Landscapes of Adoption (symposium)

conference sampler continued on page 15

Love the book?

Don't miss the website!



Take the one-minute conference tour, www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2014/great-family-get-together

Plus, dozens of NCFR members, presenters, and conference attendees have shared their conference experience on video. See the NCFR [wecareaboutfamilies](https://www.youtube.com/user/wecareaboutfamilies) channel on YouTube. And there's more . . .

- The "Video Lexicon" series featuring family research/practice insights from many well-known members including Pauline Boss, Bill Doherty, Bob Milardo, Jean Illsley Clarke, and Stephen T. Russell.
- Recent plenary excerpts (and complete videos) by David Williams, Barbara Fiese, Ben Karney, Maria Cancian, and Stephanie Coontz.
- Dave Demo discussing the importance of the *Journal of Marriage and Family* as he concluded his five-year tenure as editor of JMF.

www.youtube.com/user/wecareaboutfamilies



The future of family science

Diane Cushman, Executive Director, dianecushman@ncfr.org

In the December 2012 issue of *Report*, I discussed famology and a 2012 NCFR conference session in which Drs. Ganong, Gavazzi, Zvonkovic, Wilson, Sabatelli, and Day tackled the issues of family science’s collective past, present, and future identity or lack of it; about our relevance or irrelevance; and about whether it’s too late to lay claim to a field of study and discipline at the nexus of which is family. In the past few weeks I have immersed myself in the history of these issues as described in *Report* from the early 1980s, *Family Science Review*, *Family Relations*, and *The Journal of Marriage and Family*.

The recent issue of *Family Relations* (63:3 July 2014) includes articles by Raeann R. Hamon and Suzanne R. Smith; Jason D. Hans; and Stephen M. Gavazzi, Stephan M. Wilson, Lawrence Ganong and Anisa Zvonkovic about the family science discipline and department name trends across four decades which furthers the conversation on the future of the family science discipline.

Collectively these articles call for a continuation of the work suggested at the 1985 NCFR conference in Dallas, Texas, when NCFR members involved in this work voted unanimously to call this field of study “family science.”

Further, the “future of the family science discipline task force” made three recommendations:

- The term, *family science*, be used to refer to the field of study where the primary goals are the discovery, verification, and application of knowledge about families.

- Students, faculty, and administrators in departments that use one of the names, such as family development, family studies, family ecology, family relations, etc., should give first priority to changing the names of the appropriate courses, majors, and programs to family science.
- Students, faculty, and administrators in the family-oriented departments should give second priority to changing the names of the departments to include the term, family science. (In departments where family science is combined with child development, they may wish to have two components in the department name or to use the plural, family sciences.)

After years of work--which began when then NCFR President Wesley R. Burr gave his presidential speech at the 1982 conference in Washington, D.C., and Dr. Bert Adams appointed a task force for the development of a family discipline--a conclusion was reached and recommendations were made. Yet today, of the 131 department unit names that include the word “family” in the title, 55 use the noun *studies*, 42 use the noun *science*, and 34 departments use neither *studies* or *science* (Hans, 2014 *Family Relations* 63:3). Additionally, the title of one of NCFR’s own journals remains *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*. Wither the work of this task force and its recommendations?

While I won’t go into detail here, NCFR’s membership has been flat for the past several years. We also have seen the number of family life education certifications remain at

1,500 over the past two to three years. When asked why they don’t renew their NCFR membership or CFLE certification, the most common response is related to lack of jobs in the field. Further cited as a barrier to gainful employment serving families was a lack of awareness by employers of family as a discipline of study and area of expertise.

In a *Report* article from the early 1980s, Wesley R. Burr and Geoffrey K. Leigh identified four problems facing the “field of Family Studies”:

- A confused and ambiguous department identity.
- A lack of a clear professional identity that has graduates “fumbling for words” when asked to describe their professional identity.
- Invisibility on many college campuses where “we are relatively peripheral to the inner workings of most college campuses.”
- A low status that is inconsistent with the “knowledge base that exists in the field and the value of the contribution we can make to students and society....”

A particularly poignant statement in this article references the work of family scholars and practitioners from 1930 forward: “We think that it is past time when a discipline is organized around the equally central family institution....It would be christening something that was born long ago.”

As I write this column, we are making final preparations for the inaugural meeting of the Future of Family Science Task Force that is convening for three days in Minneapolis in August. I have invited members who have continued to raise issues related to the visibility and viability of family science and whose passion about the value of our work to humankind drives them to continue the work begun by Burr, Groves, Leigh, C. Marshall, J. Schvaneveldt, and others. We will need many members to continue the work begun in the 1980s. Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of the future of family science task force. There will be ample opportunities to apply your passion, knowledge, and skills to this worthy cause. ■

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a Policy Advisory Committee to help advance NCFR's Global Ends regarding policy.* The committee will comprise myself, as Chair of the committee, NCFR Executive Director Diane Cushman, a member of the NCFR Board Inclusion and Diversity Committee (currently Katherine Kovalanka), a member of the Affiliate Councils' Board (currently Rose Allen), the Chair of the Family Policy Section (currently Bethany Letiecq), and two to three NCFR members who have a deep interest and expertise in policy as it pertains to families (currently Hilary Rose, Elaine Anderson, and one additional member whom we have yet to identify). It's also likely we'll ask others to be a part of the committee on an as-needed basis based on their area of expertise and research knowl-

edge. The committee will advise NCFR staff on the development of policy initiatives, effective methods to gather member input, processes to attain NCFR's Global Ends, potential research and policy brief topics, and who should author and review the briefs. The committee will have additional responsibilities yet to be determined.

The intention is to have a Policy Advisory Committee that is inclusive and representative of the diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and families of the NCFR membership. The committee's work will be transparent to NCFR's members, grounded in research, and non-partisan. I'll share information from the committee with you and promote member engagement through the NCFR Sections, Focus Groups, and Affiliates. I wholeheartedly

encourage you to be involved to ensure that your voices and ideas are being represented in the policy initiatives.

The Policy Advisory Committee, with NCFR Board approval, has thus far decided that NCFR will start publishing research and policy briefs in 2015. Research briefs are for topics where research has yet to determine a conclusive set of policy implications, while policy briefs will be for topics where the preponderance of research points to clear and conclusive policy implications. The committee will convene to discuss and decide timely topics, authors, and reviewers for each brief and whether a topic is best represented as a policy or research brief. It's possible that briefs will have multiple authors and reviewers to ensure objectivity and non-partisanship. Authors of briefs will be invited; however, the briefs will undergo a double-blind peer review process beginning and ending with the committee.

The committee must approve all briefs before publication and will review the briefs within three years of publication to determine whether content needs updating. The goal of the briefs is to educate--to provide research as it pertains to families to federal and state policymakers.

Member engagement is important throughout this process. The committee wants to hear members' thoughts on topics, authors, reviewers, and whether topics are best written as policy or research briefs. As such, we'll send out a survey this fall asking for your input. Members also may submit a research or policy brief (or idea), which will go through the same review process as invited briefs. Additional methods of member engagement are under discussion.

Finally, by the time you read this article, a professional layout and design team will be developing the visual format for the briefs. We also should be close to distributing the survey I just mentioned. Remember, your voices--NCFR members' voices--are important! We want you to be engaged, so please complete the survey. Until then, let me know if you have any thoughts regarding brief topics, authors, or reviewers, as well as how to engage members in this process. Remember, my door is always open. ■

**NCFR Global Ends: "NCFR will provide information about the policy-making process and the impact of public policies on families" (Global End 1d) and "NCFR will raise the visibility of family research, theory, and practice to policy makers and the general public" (Global End 2c).*

president's report from page 3

empirical generalizations about families have many exceptions, and they often are culturally and historically contingent. But despite the limitations imposed by our subject matter, the scientific approach still brings rigor and discipline to our work and helps to ensure that our observations are as reliable and objective as possible. Without adopting the methods of science, our "research" would not rise above the level of personal opinion. We would lose the capacity to be surprised by the results of our work, trapped in an infinite loop of reaffirming our own preconceptions.

Although the scientific approach is valuable, we also should recognize that many aspects of the human condition are not readily amenable to scientific analysis. The meanings that people attach to actions and events, in particular, are better grasped through sympathetic understanding (or empathy) rather than experimentation and quantification. Treating a person's behavior as a manifestation of a general principle is a scientific way of thinking, and sometimes that is appropriate. But to make other people's behavior explicable, we often must place ourselves "in their shoes"

and see the world from their perspectives. Adopting the viewpoints of others and delving into their subjective realities is more of a humanistic than a scientific process.

In conclusion, viewing our field as family science reminds us that we should use the best available empirical methods to study our subject matter. It also signals to non-social scientists that our work is based on the collection and analysis of data and not on personal opinions. But we should accept the term for what it really is—a metaphor. Otherwise we run the risk of devaluing interpretative, sympathetic, and humanistic approaches to understanding families. Because humans have a physical body as well as consciousness and volition, the study of human behavior always will have one foot in the sciences and the other in the humanities. We need both to keep our balance. If we reject science, we lose our credibility. If we reject our humanistic foundations, we lose what is unique about our subject matter—and ourselves. Family science may be a metaphor, but as long as we understand the value and necessity of the two approaches, it is a useful and powerful one. ■



NCFR on Facebook is absolutely the easiest way to keep up with family-related research, family life education resources, members in the news, NCFR announcements and opportunities, and much more. Updated often...you should visit, www.facebook.com/n CFRpage



So what can you do with a family degree? NCFR steps up efforts to promote the field



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

Probably the most common question I have been asked over my many years here at NCFR is “what can I do with my family degree?” Most of those asking are interested in family life education specifically. I’ve honed my response to include the fact that, while family life education (FLE) is not yet a widely recognized or understood profession (emphasis on *yet*), there are a myriad of opportunities available to those with family-specific degrees. The secret to find-

ing employment is to be able to articulate to a potential employer what FLE is, what a Family Life Educator knows and can do, and the value that someone with a family background can provide to the employer and their agency or organization. Once an employer better understands what someone with a family degree brings to the table, they are often very receptive to hiring them.

Over the years, NCFR has developed a number of resources to help family profes-

sionals educate employers and the public about FLE. The “Employer’s Brochure” was designed specifically as a tool to explain FLE and the CFLE credential to employers. The CFLE Advisory Board created a PowerPoint presentation using the analogy of FLE being about working upstream. The FLE Month Contest was created as a way to involve CFLEs, NCFR members, and students in a focused effort to bring visibility to the idea of taking a preventive and educational approach to family issues.

These have all been helpful efforts but they haven’t been enough. There are still too few full-time employment opportunities for graduates with family degrees. Too many CFLEs are being told that a position requires a social work license. Too many resources are focused on intervention rather than prevention. In an effort to make tangible progress in helping family professionals find relevant employment, NCFR is stepping up our efforts to address this issue. We’ve identified a number of strategies aimed directly at increasing the visibility and the value of a family degree, identifying more job opportunities for family degree graduates, and emphasizing the important role that FLE can play in strengthening families and society. Here’s a quick overview of some of our efforts:

Careers in Family Science booklet update
Jennifer Crosswhite, NCFR Director of Public Affairs, and I have been working with a task force consisting of **Sharon Ballard**, East Carolina University, **Stephen Duncan**, Brigham Young University, **Racann Hamon**, Messiah College, and **Alan Taylor**, East Carolina University, to update the very popular *Careers in Family Science* booklet. You may recall receiving an email from me asking for volunteers to provide a career profile for inclusion in this publication. Along with a more detailed discussion of family science as a discipline and career opportunities for

cfle directions continued on page 8

Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alaska Galadriel Louise Allen McCollum	Minnesota Leah Katherine Damon	South Carolina Virginia Wescott	FULL
Arkansas Bianca Ferrara Stowell	Mississippi Renee Barnette Patrice Gladney McCullum	Tennessee Lee Ann Alley Shipley	FULL
Connecticut Juliana Hogan Pooley	Montana Monica Ruiz	Texas Nina Bates Joel Christopher Bell Terri O’Neal Ford Mary Hannah Key Judy Kay Landers Julie Leventhal	FULL
Georgia Angeline Budgett Beth B. Morris	New Jersey Teresa Luetjen Keeler	Utah Miyuki Abe Castleton Pamela B. Payne Rachel Richardson	FULL
Illinois Benjamin Mark Murray	New York Sharell A. Byrd Jordana Reusch	Virginia Jou-Chen Chen Donna Hancock Hoskins LaKeisha N. Jones	FULL
Iowa Sarah Boss Elizabeth Finley Melissa Mormann	North Carolina Carrie Bumgarner Morgan Reilly Raynor	Washington Kacie Don Arndt	FULL
Louisiana Janeal M. McCauley	Ohio Jessica Lynn Artim Tina M. Conley Corrinne J. Howell	West Virginia Ebony L. Lewis John Paul Machir	FULL
Maryland Jenna Elizabeth Stafford Denise Yookong Williams	Oklahoma Elizabeth Suzanne Dittmeyer	Canada Prince Edward Island Ann F. Hayes-McKenzie	FULL
Michigan Chad Campbell Kristine Crummel Morgan Jackson Rebecca Newland Candy Porter Patricia Richards Jodie Ann Westra Ladena Wyckoff	Oregon Hillary Hyde	Rhode Island Alisha Christine Samayoa	FULL
	Pennsylvania Roxanne Atterholt William M. McGuigan Alyssa Elaine Reginella		FULL

those with bachelor and graduate degrees, the profiles will provide real-life examples of the employment settings and responsibilities of a number of NCFR members and CFLEs.

Career Resources on NCFR website

We've started what will be an ongoing update of the *Career Resources* section of the NCFR website. One of the first things that Jennifer Crosswhite did when joining the NCFR staff was to reorganize the *Career Resources* page into sections relevant to different NCFR audiences: *Academia, Research, Practice, and Students*. Information relevant to each audience such as "Funding your research," "Publishing tips," "Working with the media" are included. In the *Practice* section, we are highlighting CFLEs who have appeared in *CFLE in Context* articles from past issues of the *CFLE Network*. We'll also add profiles similar to those included in the *Careers in Family Science* booklet to hopefully provide guidance and inspiration regarding the many career opportunities available.

Jobs Center

Jason Samuels, NCFR Director of Innovation and Technology, is exploring the feasibility of an upgrade to the NCFR Jobs Center that would pull in relevant job postings from a wider array of sources with the goal of increasing the number of jobs specific to family life education.

Department of Labor Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)

NCFR recently submitted an application to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Standards Occupational Classification (SOC) committee requesting that Family Life Educator be included as a new detailed occupation within the revised 2018 SOC. Jennifer Crosswhite, who was largely responsible for writing the report, will provide an update on the status of this effort in a future issue of the NCFR Report, and I will be sure to keep all CFLEs apprised as well.

Future of Family Science Task Force

NCFR Executive Director Diane Cushman spearheaded a task force of NCFR members

to meet in Minneapolis in August (with a follow-up meeting planned for November at the NCFR Conference), to discuss the establishment of a consistent and clear identity for the family field. The lack of a consistent name for the field contributes to the struggle of family professionals to be recognized and understood which has implications for employment issues.

NCFR Conference Session – Career Option for Bachelor, Master, and Ph.D.s

There will be two special sessions at the NCFR Conference in November highlighting family career opportunities. *Outside the Ivory Tower: The Non-academic Job Market for Social Science Ph.D.s.* will be held on Friday, November 21, from 11:30 - 1:30, followed by *Job Search: Career Options for Bachelor and Master's Graduates* from 2:00 - 4:00.

Additional efforts include adding more resources to the *Professional Resources Library* and hosting webinars sharing employment tips. Please contact me if you have any ideas to help NCFR increase employment opportunities for family graduates at dawn-cassidy@ncfr.org.

The following page of the NCFR website includes information on career opportunities for Family Life Educators, a link to the "Employer's Brochure," and information on the *Careers in Family Science* booklet. An updated version of the *Careers* booklet is due out in September.

<http://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification/what-family-life-education/where-are-family-life-educators-employed> ■

Clara Gerhardt joins NCFR Report staff

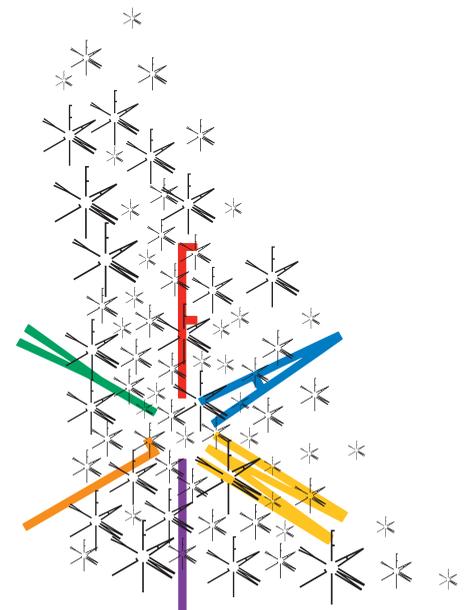
Clara Gerhardt, M.B.A., Ph.D., CFLE, has been appointed editor of *Family Focus* in *NCFR Report*. Dr. Gerhardt will work with managing editor Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., and a guest adviser in selecting and reviewing articles and working with authors.

An NCFR member since 1998, Dr. Gerhardt has contributed to this organization in a number of significant ways. She is Contributing Editor for the *CFLE Network* and writes and edits *Perspectives*, a regular column appearing in this same publication. She serves on the *CFLE Academic Review Committee* and was awarded the Certified Family Life Educator Special Recognition Award in 2013 for outstanding services as a CFLE.

Dr. Gerhardt is a clinical psychologist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and a certified family life educator. She coauthored a leading textbook on parenting, *Parent-Child Relations: An Introduction to Parenting*, now in its ninth edition and published by Pearson. Other publications include an earlier book, two book chapters, a dozen scholarly contributions, and over 130 articles in the popular press. She

has participated in over 150 invited and peer-reviewed presentations nationally and internationally. Dr. Gerhardt has numerous radio and television appearances to her credit and has held positions as chair of the Department of Family Studies and of a State Board of Examiners in Psychology. She currently is Professor of Human Development and Family Life Education at Samford University. Dr. Gerhardt's involvement with publishing is long standing. She has had the privilege of being a ballet reviewer for a newspaper and is passionate about the performing arts. She is on the international editorial board of *New Voices in Psychology*.

Dr. Gerhardt is the product of three continents, has professionally presented on six continents, has visited over 65 countries, and speaks five languages fluently. She says she suspects that her love for the written word is in her heritage; her grandfather was the editor of a medical journal and her great grandmother a bestselling romance novelist! ■





Writing great reviews

Robert Milardo, Ph.D., rd360@maine.edu

"Crafting Scholarship" is a regular *NCFR Report* column by Bob Milardo, former editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family* and founding editor of the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. He is author of *Crafting Scholarship for the Behavioral and Social Sciences: Writing, Reviewing and Editing* (Fall 2014, Routledge); www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138787841/

Reviewing

In this new column I hope to examine the core elements of crafting scholarship for the behavioral and social sciences. The column will focus on the essentials of writing, reviewing and editing. I'll focus largely on journal articles, but much of what we explore will apply to writing grants, books, book chapters and similar forms of scholarship. As professionals we are all writers of one sort or another. Many of the columns will have a decidedly instructional focus, but some are simply intended to be playful. I love writing, speaking with writers, and thinking about how we come to the page-crafting ideas. Let me know how you like the column or if you have suggested topics.

The first few columns begin with examining the best practices in writing reviews of journal articles and related issues, like responding to editors and understanding common editorial practices. These are issues I've had experience with as an editor but they also are issues with a rich empirical literature from which we can draw insights. I'll also use the column to visit one of my favorite topics: how successful writers work. We can learn much from visiting with writers, some well-established and some new professionals. They are all a bit quirky but share some core habits that help to account for their productivity.

Writing great reviews

Writing masterful reviews is an important skill and a central part of the peer review process. I approach the topic with the implicit belief that the best reviews are critical and generative, and this applies equally well to manuscripts submitted to journals for review and to reviews of grant applications,

books, or other forms of scholarship. Well-executed reviews inform an editor's decision about the disposition of a manuscript and include a more generative purpose to help authors improve their work. We can use these dual purposes to evaluate the quality of reviews and make judgments about best practices. Effective reviews benefit the profession and quality of the published work in addition to informing the reviewer's personal success in writing for publication.

To better understand the components of masterful reviews, and not so effective reviews, I analyzed the content of 111 reviews received over several years by the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. At the outset, I stripped any identifying material and compared reviews with high ratings to reviews with low ratings. Reviewers for this journal,

Effective reviews benefit the profession and quality of the published work in addition to informing the reviewer's personal success in writing....

as is the case for many if not most journals in the behavioral and social sciences, are typically members of the journal's board and a legion of scholars who have volunteered to review for the journal. (To review for *NCFR* journals, visit the journal's website and provide the requested information.) For each review, the editorial office maintains records on the time it takes a reviewer to complete a review. I rate the quality of each review, with 1 being standard quality and 3 being a superior review. Reviewers who consistently receive ratings of 2.0 to 3.0 make important contributions to editors and authors and are highly regarded. Many journals use similar systems to effectively manage the enterprise. The ratings are consistently applied subjective evaluations that permit a means to compare reviews, identify

common characteristics, and quantify the elements of effective reviews based upon a systematic analysis.

Masterful reviews differ from the not-so-useful reviews in several ways. The best reviews are detailed and, as a result, fairly long. Quality reviews, and in this instance reviews with ratings of 2.5 to 3.0, average 865 words and some exceed 3,000 words. In comparison, reviews with low ratings (1.0 to 1.5) are substantially shorter, averaging 250 or fewer words. Our current record is a scant 15 words. Brevity may be the soul of wit but it is not the substance of masterful reviewing.

Reviews that fall short are of two varieties. One variety begins with an overall comment about the quality of the manuscript that may be very positive, or very negative, and little else.

From my perspective, this manuscript is very useful and interesting. I think it is a contribution to the field about what we might usefully be doing in incorporating same-sex parenting into our research, our theorizing, and our teaching. For me, among the many strengths of the article is the review of the etymological history of the terms like heterogamy. The review not only makes it easier to disinvest from common current usages of the terms in the field, it also helps the reader to recognize that usage of the terms has been historically diverse and culturally embedded.

I also like the piece as a teaching piece. Not only did I learn from it but I think it is well written and succinct and no doubt will be useful to students as well as more established scholars.

I did not see any technical errors in the paper except that the reference list is not in APA style.

There is nothing inherently wrong with this review. The reviewer states what she or he likes about the manuscript and how it will be useful to readers. The problem is the lack

crafting scholarship continued on page 10

of commentary that would help the author to improve the manuscript. The review lacks depth, and this is certainly the most common feature of reviews evaluated (and rated) as less than useful. By the way, these are not in fact direct quotes of actual reviews, but rather reconstructions that seek to preserve the more important matters of tone and content, while altering the less important issues of specific topics being addressed or precise wording of the author. In this way I preserve all parties' privacy.

Let's take another example. In this instance, the review may be longer and include more direct commentary but the substance focuses on editorial issues, the use of language, and matters of grammar or style.

This was a well-written and comprehensive manuscript. I highly recommend it for publication with some changes:

- (1) *The first sentence of the abstract misuses the term risk factor and is likely to confuse readers.*
 - (2) *Page 3, 1st paragraph: Consider changing the two uses of the word "adolescent" to "youth."*
 - (3) *Page 3, 2nd paragraph: Please elaborate more on what specific confounding variables you are referring to.*
 - (4) *Page 3, 2nd paragraph: Spell out the Smoker et al. (2009) reference since it is the first time that it is being presented.*
 - (5) *Page 3, last paragraph: Spell out the Beatrix et al. (2013) reference since it is the first time that it is being presented.*
 - (6) *Page 4, end of page: Please elaborate more on the contextual issues you are referring to.*
 - (7) *You tend to use the word "plurality" a lot throughout the manuscript.*
- Overall, this manuscript will make a wonderful contribution to the field.*

Like the previous example, this review begins with a **positive startup**, a statement that compliments some aspect of the manuscript at the outset—not all do. The reviewer concentrates on relatively minor issues regarding word choice and the style of citations. Suggestions regarding word choices and other comments that increase the clarity of an idea are useful, but such comments should not replace an evaluation of the core conceptual model framing the paper, the core theory or hypothesis, the choice and interpretation of analyses, the integration with pertinent literature, or other critical elements of any theoretical paper, review, case study,

or empirical report. Incidentally, there were seven spelling errors in the original review. An occasional error is not an issue. A pattern of errors influences my confidence in the content of the review and the care in which the reviewer approached the assignment. In addition, all of the comments referred to the first seven pages of a 30-page manuscript. Our confidence in the thoroughness of the review is further eroded.

The following example is possibly one of the briefest we have received to date: *"This is an excellent piece of work. I look forward to seeing it in print."* In fact, there were four reviewers assigned to the manuscript: Two recommended rejection, one suggested a major revision, and one was ready to accept as is. Perhaps this later reviewer presaged the potential of the manuscript because after several revisions it developed substantially and was eventually accepted and published. The purpose of the editorial process is to provide authors feedback that will help to achieve excellence. Kudos are fine, but we need to go further if our reviews are to be helpful.

The best reviews begin with a positive startup and continue with commentary that is detailed, critical, and serves both core purposes: to inform an editor's decision, and guide authors in improving their manuscript.

Best Practice: Setting the Tone with Start-ups

Reviews can begin in several ways. The following are the types of startup phrases reviewers most typically use. As an author which do you prefer?

Harsh Start-up: *"I have read better papers written by undergraduates...."*

Woeful Start-up: *"I found this paper disappointing...."*

Neutral Start-up: *"This is an interesting topic...."*

Descriptive Start-up: *"This paper addresses the issue of mothers' influence on fathers' participation in routine child care...."*

Descriptive Start with Double Entendre: *"This paper addresses the issue of mothers' influence on fathers' participation in routine child care, which is really interesting because I didn't know there was any."*

Positive Start-up: *"This manuscript has a number of strengths...."*

Positive Start-up with Take-back: *"This paper is impressive in many regards, but unfortunately reads rather like third-rate journalism."*

Overall, I prefer a review that begins with a positive statement, or a neutral startup if the former is not possible. There is nearly always something positive to acknowledge even if it is only the selection of topics. My goal is always to simply acknowledge the work of authors and most importantly to motivate them to improve their work. As a reviewer or editor, I am more like an uncle (or aunt) than a parent.

In summary, the best reviews are critical and generative. They serve to help editors make informed decisions and help authors improve their work. Effective reviews begin with a positive or descriptive startup and continue that tone throughout while offering substantive critical analysis and commentary.

In the next column, I'll continue exploring the issues of tone and content as well as some additional qualities of effective reviews. In the interim, please visit the Facebook page for *Crafting Scholarship* and add your commentary and experiences in reviewing and being reviewed.

<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.routledge.com%2Fbooks%2Fdetails%2F9781138787841%2F> ■

NCFR history

Be a part of NCFR history

You're invited to add details and comments to the NCFR online history book.

Created by Jason Samuels, our IT director, and retired executive director Mary Jo Czaplewski, the NCFR history book is a living publication on the NCFR website. NCFR members are encouraged to visit the site and post comments and recollections. The goal is to tell the organization's story through the voices of all members. The history book was launched about a year ago, after two years of compilation, as part of the NCFR 75th anniversary.

To read and contribute to the history book, please visit <http://history.ncfr.org>.

FT Section news: Happy Anniversary!



Christi McGeorge, Section Chair, christine.mcgeorge@ndsu.edu

Greetings from the Family Therapy Section! The conference this year will be an exciting one as the Family Therapy Section celebrates its 75th anniversary. In honor of this major milestone, the Family Therapy Executive Committee is planning a special celebration during the section meeting. If you have photos or mementos from the section over the years and are willing to share them, please email me at christine.mcgeorge@ndsu.edu.

As part of our Family Therapy Section 75th Anniversary Celebration, there will be a networking activity that features past section chairs during the annual section meeting.

This will be a wonderful time to connect with individuals that have shaped our section and the field. Additionally, we will recognize a second group of Family Therapy Section Legacy Scholars who will also participate in our networking event during the section meeting. The Family Therapy Section Legacy Scholars being honored this year are Drs. Jeff Larson, Volker Thomas, and Doug Sprenkle. I am very grateful to all of the section chairs and legacy scholars for their willingness to participate in this networking activity and share their wisdom with all of us. Please plan to attend the section meeting and celebration on Thursday, November 20, 7:45-9:15 p.m.

While the Family Therapy Section meeting is going to be very exciting, there will also be many wonderful sessions to attend at the conference. For instance, the Section is sponsoring a Special Session by Dr. Sandra Stith, a Family Therapy Legacy Scholar, entitled “*Moving Beyond Ideology: My Journey Toward a Third Wave Intersectional Perspective of Intimate Partner Violence.*” The presentation will be held Thursday, November 20, from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

This year, we are also sponsoring a Family Therapy Round Table Symposium (the first of its kind). This session is Friday, November 21, from 2:45 to 4:00 p.m., and will involve eight round tables focused on a diverse array of topics. This will be a great time for us to gather as a section to learn about cutting-edge approaches to family therapy and contemporary issues facing the field. The presentations and scholars that will be involved in this round table symposium are:

It's Not Fair: Using Contextual Therapy with Families Facing Health Issues. Alexandra Schmidt, D. Scott Sibley

Family Adaptive Systems: The Next Wave of Family Resilience. Carolyn Henry, Amanda Harrist, Amanda Sheffield Morris

Co-parenting Through Divorce: Key Factors and Best Practices for Creating Change. Matthew Brosi, Ronald Cox, Timothy Welch

Family Financial Strain: Free Tools and Strategies for MFTs and FLEs. Bryce Jorgensen, Damon Rappleyea, Clinton Gudmunson, Tim Griesdorn, Alan Taylor

Changing Perspectives in Acculturation: Effective Therapy Practice with Immigrant Populations. Bertranna Abrams, Jessica Chou, Hoa Nguyen

Commitment in Mixed-Orientation Relationships. Kevin Zimmerman, Christian Jordal, Lisa Schwartz

Whistle Blowers: A Systemic Understanding of Sexual Harassment. Jody Russon, Renata Carneiro

Professors of Asian Heritage: Our Stories in Couple and Family Therapy Field. Hao-Min Chen, Karen Quek, Liang-Ying Chou, Alex Hsieh, Hye-Sun Ro

I look forward to seeing you in Baltimore for what will be a truly outstanding conference and celebration of the section's 75th anniversary!

Ethnic Minorities Section



Ani Yazedjian, Section Chair, ayazedj@ilstu.edu

The Ethnic Minorities Section has an exciting slate of presentations selected for this year's conference. Thank you to all our members who so generously gave of their time to review proposals in March. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring the caliber of proposals accepted for the conference.

This year, we have several paper sessions focusing on African American families, immigrant families, and adolescent development. We are also featuring a symposium on transnational and immigrant families. Be sure to check out our poster sessions throughout the conference as well.

We hope you will all join us for our Section Meeting on Wednesday, November 19,

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., and for the Oral History on Friday, November 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. We'll use that time to hear updates from our members and discuss ideas for the 2015 conference.

Finally, the EM Students and New Professionals are planning a joint happy hour with the International Section SNPs at a local ethnic restaurant in Baltimore. More details will be available in the near future. If you are a student or new professional, this will be a great opportunity to network with colleagues and enjoy some tasty local cuisine. I look forward to seeing everyone in Baltimore!

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. Members may access the content of our scholarly journals on-line at www.ncfr.org. To join NCFR, click on our convenient on-line membership application at www.ncfr.org. Journalists with media inquiries are invited to contact Charles Cheesebrough at 763-231-2885 or via email at charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org for information on our scholarly research.

Starting a conversation

Jennifer Doty, SNP Representative, Education and Enrichment Section, dotyx093@umn.edu

I'd like to start a conversation about work life balance for students and new professionals. In the last few years, shock waves have gone through my community of grad students as we watch commentary bounce back and forth from Sheryl Sandberg's TED talk about the ways that women hold themselves back. She pointed out that women are less likely to be in leadership in any profession, even in non-profits, and that women have more challenges balancing family and career (no big surprise to us family science people, right?).

I recently read the book, *Do Babies Matter? Gender and Family in the Ivory Tower* by Anne Mason (2013). She reported that not only women but also men in academia were less likely to have children compared to

those in other high-powered careers like lawyers and doctors. Women, especially mothers, were less likely to get tenure-track positions and less likely to make tenure even if they get the job. Women were under-represented in academic administration and overrepresented in adjunct faculty positions. So as students and new professionals, what are we going to do about this?

In both her TED talk and her recent book, Sheryl Sandberg suggests three ways that women can lean in rather than hold themselves back.

First, women tend to underestimate their potential and undersell their abilities compared to their male colleagues. In the academic world, for example, women's work is cited

less than men, in part because women cite their own work less than men do (Maliniak, Powers, Walder, 2013). So we need to be aware of this, strategize, and reach for opportunities.

Next, make our partners really a partner. Full disclosure, I'm passionate about this in part because I've got kids at home. Unequivocally, I could not do this without the support of my partner who was willing to pick up the family, get a new job across the country, and gives me constant support while I'm in this doctoral program. I recognize this as a privilege, and I also have had to let a lot go in terms of household management.

Last, don't stop investing in our careers before we have children. I recently talked with an undergraduate scholar who had been accepted to a Ph.D. program, and she was considering not accepting because she had a new boyfriend. I did my best to encourage her to lean in.

Now, here's the other side of the argument. In reaction to Sheryl's TED talk, Anne-Marie Slaughter wrote an article in *The Atlantic* where she described her decision to step down from a powerful position in the Obama administration because her son needed her. I find that courageous. Slaughter argued that we need to respect the importance of family in our lives and make our environment more family friendly and supportive of women's careers and men's family lives.

In our field, what would that mean? Here are a few ideas: mentors who are good examples of balancing family and career demands; good health insurance; and policies that stop the clock for grad students and new professionals when they have a child. According to Mason (2013), the average age that doctoral students graduate is 33 for women and 35 for men. That means that if we follow the old advice to postpone family formation (marriage or childbearing) until after tenure, biology will be working against us.

Bottom line, I agree with Mason that we are losing too many of our best and brightest. We need a "both/and" solution: to look carefully at the ways we hold ourselves back *and* to work to change our environment to make it a more family-friendly place. And as family scientists, how can we lead the charge? ■



Family Science advances!

Bahira Sharif Trask, bstrask@udel.edu



There are many new and exciting developments underway. We have a wonderful conference program ahead of us in November, and we are engaging full force on advancing our field from research, practitioner, and policy perspectives.

Despite a shared quandary that we are often a "discovery" major at our respective institutions, many of our programs are becoming increasingly successful. In many ways we represent the fields of the future: academic disciplines that are intimately concerned with societal problems and working out solutions. We already do well what others are trying to figure out: translational research that has tangible social justice benefits.

From my perspective, more than anything we have an "image" problem. Due to the fact that traditionally academia has prized theorizing over application, we have been somewhat marginalized in many contexts. Also, our subject area "families" has not been well understood as being of interest as an object of scholarly focus (to those outside of our field). As NCFR becomes increasingly visible, as our scholars publish, speak, and advise in prominent outlets, and as our

practitioners through their great work, get the word out, Family Science is moving in a new, very positive direction. Much of this will be evident at the conference in Baltimore in November.

The Family Science section, naturally, plays an important role in helping shape the discipline. We are sponsoring a number of what promise to be highly informative sessions, including panels on innovative pedagogies, administrative concerns in the field, the re-positioning of Family Science in colleges and universities, and a special session on how feminism and social justice need to pervade and help structure humane workplaces.

We would like to engage the membership in a more focused dialogue on these issues not only at the conference but also throughout the academic year. I thus encourage you to use the listserv to initiate discussions about topics that are on your mind. They can of course relate to our sessions, but it would also be useful to hear about strategies and concerns that you are facing at your respective institutions. We are at an important juncture in our field--now is the time to capitalize on the moment and to move things forward! ■



College of Education and Human Services



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The PhD in Family Studies program at Montclair State University offers a unique interdisciplinary and critical lens for analyzing the challenges to, and promoting the well-being of, all types of families across the life span, across cultures and throughout the world. Our doctoral students learn to become effective change advocates for improved family life through research, scholarship, program development and evaluation research.

Our faculty has a distinguished research record in the areas of parenting, siblings, relational aggression, adolescent development, intimate partner violence, immigrant families, transition to young adulthood, aging family relationships, substance abuse, depression and suicide, LGBT-headed households, family stress, African American families, first-generation college students and in program development evaluation.

Graduates of the program will have a wide range of professional opportunities, including careers as:

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It's all here. Montclair State University

NCFR Affiliate Councils Diaper Drive update



The Cheesebrough Family Grandchildren Diaper Drive Warriors (not yet an approved NCFR affiliate) have helped Grandpa Charlie Cheesebrough, NCFR's membership/marketing director, collect 932 diapers over the summer. The seven wee and poo defenders, ages 2 through 9, help shop, count, stack, and deliver. The donated diapers go to a local food shelter in suburban St. Paul, Minnesota.

The NCFR Diaper Drive—changing the world one diaper at a time—continues this fall. Can your group beat the Warriors? Join the effort and see, www.ncfr.org/diaper-drive.



UTCFR Annual Conference news

The annual conference of the Utah Council on Family Relations (UTCFR) was held April 4, 2014, at Brigham Young University with the theme *Transitions in Family Life*. It was the largest UTCFR conference in memory with 161 paid registrations, 10 paper presentations, and 28 poster presentations. Attendees were from all of the major universities in Utah, as well as a strong contingent from BYU-Idaho.

Dr. Larry Nelson, from the BYU School of Family Life, gave the plenary address en-

titled, *On Your Mark. Get Set. Grow Up! A Closer Look at the Transition to Adulthood in Family Life*. He emphasized how the traditional markers of adulthood are being blurred and about the importance of family scholars investigating the new stage called emerging adulthood.

Two \$100 awards were presented to students at the conference. Stephanie Luster from BYU received the Outstanding Graduate Student award and James Bridges from

BYU-Idaho received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student award.

Dr. E. Jeffrey Hill, Brigham Young University, succeeded Dr. Ron Hammond from Utah Valley University as UTCFR President. Dr. Kay Bradford, Utah State University, will be program chair for next year's UTCFR annual conference to be held in Logan, Utah on April 3, 2015. ■

Photos: Ryan Faulkner Photography

Elections council seeks leaders for NCFR

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

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

- Board Members-at-Large (2016-2019); two positions
- Elections Council members (2016-2019); two positions
- Fellows Committee members (2016-2019); two positions
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee Members-at-Large (2016-2019); two positions
- Students and New Professionals Program Representative (2016-2018)

Each year we begin our work on the next election cycle at the annual conference, ask-

ing sections to nominate potential candidates for the organizational level positions that need to be filled, and encouraging individuals to nominate either themselves or others. Last year we were more than pleased at the number of candidates who offered to run for office, and we are excited about the outstanding list of potential candidates we have before us.

In the spring, we will meet to identify and discuss possible candidates for 2016 who have been identified by nomination or who appear on lists of members who have previously served in leadership positions across the organization. We consider not only the experience of individual candidates, but also the structure of the overall slate, asking ourselves if we are building a slate that reflects the strength and diversity of the organization

and its members.

The Elections Council's responsibility is to help NCFR members match their leadership abilities to the leadership opportunities that abound within our organization, and we take seriously the NCFR Board's charge to find the right people who are willing to have their names placed on the ballot each year. We are guided by the operating values outlined in the NCFR by-laws and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures. Our desire is to build a slate that represents the entire NCFR membership and that reflects and promotes the mission and goals of NCFR.

NCFR Elections Council

April Few-Demo (Chair), Mick Cunningham, Abbie E. Goldberg, Gladys Hildreth, Mihaela Robila, Hilary Rose (Board Liaison) ■

conference sampler continued from page 4

Religion and Families

Focus on Diversity: Intersections With Family Issues, Scholarship and Religion/Spirituality (paper session)

Why Religion Helps and Harms: Paradox and Power at the Nexus of Faith and Family Life (TCRM paper--Tuesday pre-con)

Faith and Emerging Adulthood: Identity, Experience and Attitudes (poster symposium)

Families and Health

Families and Substance Abuse (paper session)

Interdisciplinary Intervention Collaborations to Address Childhood Obesity (symposium)

Global Approaches in Sexuality Education (Special Session)

Research and Theory; Translational Research

Evaluating Programs and Resources for Military Families (symposium)

Not All Evidence is Created Equal: Translating Research into Programs for Families, Youth and Children (workshop)

Examining the Impact and Process of Union Dissolution (paper session)

Ties and Binds: Confronting Constraints to Motherhood in Disadvantaged Families (symposium)

Financial and Life Satisfaction: It's a Family Affair (paper session)

Family Science

Best Practices in Family Science (paper session)

Positioning Family Science for a Strong Future (symposium)

Teaching Diversity, Gender and Globalization (poster symposium)

Globalizing Student Research: Benefits, Challenges and Recommendations (workshop)

Feminism

Effectiveness of the Transnational Politics of Emotion (Special Session with Carolyn Pedwell)

Relational Experiences, Identity, and Inclusion for GLBT Individuals and Families (paper session)

Incorporating Feminism into Academic and Professional Mentoring (workshop)

Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, October 2

Thursday, October 2, 2014,
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Messiah College, Mechanicsburg,
Pennsylvania

Conference focus is on mental health and policy issues. Roundtable sessions and more. Keynote: *Mental Health Parity: Implications for Family Policy*, Elaine Anderson, Ph.D., NCFR past president. Follow link at www.ncfr.org/events/upcoming-affiliate-conferences-and-events

The Great Family Get-Together

2014 NCFR Annual Conference

Nov 19-22 • Baltimore, Maryland

"Families at the Nexus of Global Change"

The future of family science and family life education

- Innovative Pedagogy in Family Science
- Faculty Forum: Teaching Family Policy
- Developing Family Studies as a Discipline Internationally
The Global Consortium for International Family Studies
- Administering a Humane Workplace: The Influence of Feminism and Social Justice. *Past-president Elaine Anderson leads a discussion of family scholars reviewing successes and challenges for academic departments.*
- Focused Dialogue 1...the case for family education
Ellen Taner leads discussion on FLE visibility, workforce policy, and the Affordable Care Act.
- Focused Dialogue 2...university-based family outreach
Moving Extension and family programs to a higher level of evaluation.

... and many more sessions on teaching and learning in the classroom and in the community.

Featured speakers

Globalization, Families, and Change
Bahira Sherif Trask, Ph.D., University of Delaware



Women Changing the World
Fouzia Saeed, Ph.D., Pakistani social activist



Migration and Invisible Welfare:
European Perspectives
Maurizio Ambrosini, Ph.D., University of Milan



Criminal Justice, Social Issues
John Hagan, Ph.D. Northwestern University



...plus
Global Human Rights
Adrien Wing, J.D., University of Iowa; Nalini Negi, Ph.D., University of Maryland

Families in the Real World
Kathy Edin, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; Ron Haskins, Ph.D., Brookings Institution



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