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**Families and the Criminal Justice System**

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The articles in the Family Focus section this issue concentrate on the effects of incarceration on families.

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## NCFR Fellows 2013



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Sally Lloyd



Kristin Moore



Maureen Perry-Jenkins

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) has conferred its organization's prestigious Fellow status to five members.

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to members who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to the field of the family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach or professional service, including service to NCFR.

Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected by the Fellows Committee. Members of the 2013 selection committee were: Gladys Hildreth and Roger Rubin (co-chairs); Randall Day; Marilyn Coleman; Adriana Umana-Taylor; Francisco Villarruel; Jennifer Hardesty, Board Liaison; Jeanne Strand, Staff Liaison.

The 2013 Fellows are highlighted on pages 2 and 3. They will be recognized at the 2014 NCFR Annual Conference.

## First Innovation Grant winners

In December, the Board of Directors awarded the organization's first NCFR Innovation Grants. Each research project will receive a \$10,000 stipend. The 2013-14 NCFR Innovation Grant recipients, chosen from 26 submitted projects, are:

***"The Role of Family Relationships in Adherence to Supplemental Oxygen Therapy"***

Kristen Holm, Ph.D., MPH, Principal Investigator; Mark Aloia, Ph.D.; Katherine Sterba, Ph.D., MPH; Jeffrey Swigris, DO, MS; Frederick Wamboldt, MD.

This project will examine how families influence adherence to medical therapy, specifically in regards to individuals who are prescribed supplemental oxygen for chronic lung disease.

Drs. Holm, Aloia, Swigris and Wamboldt are affiliated with National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado. National Jewish Health

was named the best respiratory hospital in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report* for 15 consecutive years. Dr. Sterba is from the Medical University of Southern Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina.

***"Effects of Daily Stress on Same-Sex Relationships: Understanding Vulnerabilities, Resilience, and Dyadic Coping"***  
Casey J. Totenhagen, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, and Ashley K. Randall, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

This project will examine how vulnerabilities such as outness and internalized homophobia affect experiences of stress for same-sex couples, how common and gay-related stress affects relational functioning, and how coping with stress together ameliorates negative effects.

Dr. Totenhagen is affiliated with the University of Alabama's College of Human

*grant winners continued on page 9*



**NCFR 76th  
Annual Conference  
Baltimore, Maryland  
November 19-22**

# 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.

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How to contribute to the *NCFR Report*: The magazine 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, Charles Cheesebrough, at [charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org](mailto:charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org). **The contents of Report articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.**

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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: Charles Cheesebrough at [charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org](mailto:charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org). For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

*NCFR Report* is published quarterly by the National Council on Family Relations, 1201 West River Parkway, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55454-1115

Toll free: 888-781-9331

Fax: 763-781-9348, website: [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org).

Third class postage permit.

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# Fellows 2013

## Leonor B. Johnson



Leonor B. Johnson is Professor Emerita of African and African American Studies in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Dr. Johnson received her bachelor's degree in social services from East Tennessee State University and her master's and doctorate degrees in family sociology from Purdue University. She is most noted for her pioneering contributions to the study of African American families and groundbreaking and continuing research on police work-family stress. Additional research foci have been on ethnic studies, cross-cultural sexuality, and gender roles. She was the founding director of African and African American Studies at Arizona State University.

Her name appears on more than two dozen book chapters and journal articles. Most prominent is her co-authorship, with Robert Staples, on the first major textbook about black families, *Black Families at the Crossroads*.

Data that Dr. Johnson gathered under a National Institute of Mental Health federal grant represented the first documentation of violence within police families — a rare view of police work-family tensions — and resulted in providing the only empirical evidence for the bipartisan supported Law Enforcement Family Support Act. Such expertise led to consultancies for police-citizens forums and a board advisory position for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During Dr. Johnson's 40-year NCFR membership, she has served in numerous leadership positions, including three times as an NCFR Board member and the 2011 annual conference program chair. She has also won many awards and served as unofficial photographer at NCFR's annual conferences.

## Jennifer Kerpelman



Jennifer Kerpelman is a professor of human development and family studies and associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Human Sciences at Auburn University.

Dr. Kerpelman's current research focuses on links between family processes and adolescent development, particularly during high school and over the transition from high school to college or work. Her projects have contributed in important ways to our understanding of how parents can work most effectively to promote the maturity of their adolescent and young adult children. Her most recent project is working with a team funded by a \$7.4 million federal grant for the Alabama Healthy Marriage and Relationships Education Initiative that has helped implement and examine the impact of a community saturation model of relationship and marriage education for youth and adults.

In addition to faculty and administrative responsibilities at Auburn, Dr. Kerpelman has also served as an extension specialist for most of her career, disseminating her research to families and professionals and developing programs, websites, videos, and games based on her findings.

Dr. Kerpelman has had more than 50 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, and has presented more than 135 times at national and international conferences. Dr. Kerpelman also has been recognized for her teaching, has mentored more than 250 students, and has developed a number of family courses. She has also made significant contributions to NCFR, serving on organizational committees and in associate editor, ad-hoc reviewer, and editorial board roles for each of NCFR's three academic journals.

# Fellows 2013

**Sally  
Lloyd**



Sally Lloyd is a professor of educational leadership and women's, gender, and sexuality studies at Miami University (Ohio).

Dr. Lloyd received her bachelor's degree in special education and psychology from Creighton University, her master's in family studies from Texas Tech University, and her Ph.D. in family studies from Oregon State University. She is an internationally known scholar of relationship violence, especially physical and sexual violence during courtship. Her 2000 book, *The Dark Side of Courtship*, co-authored with Dr. Beth Emery, has become a classic in the field.

Dr. Lloyd's work is always cutting edge, rich in theory, and consistently incorporates a feminist perspective. She was the lead author on the 2009 *Handbook of Feminist Family Studies*. She has authored additional books on romantic relationships and courtship and has also published numerous journal articles and book chapters related to romantic relationships and relationship violence.

She is serving or has served on seven different editorial boards, including the *Journal of Family Communication*, the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, the *Journal of Black Masculinities*, and NCFR's *Family Relations*, reflecting her broad impact her work has had in the social sciences.

Dr. Lloyd also has served in at least nine administrative positions at Miami of Ohio. Despite heavy administrative duties, she has remained an active scholar and teacher. She has won a variety of teaching awards and was also recognized with the university's highest faculty honor, the Benjamin Harrison Medallion.

In addition to exemplary service to NCFR, Dr. Lloyd has served as president of the International Association of Relationship Researchers. She is frequently called upon as a keynote speaker, and she has delivered many papers at various conferences throughout the United States and Europe.

**Kristin  
Moore**



Kristin Moore is a senior scholar and co-director for youth development at the nonprofit, nonpartisan research center Child Trends.

At Child Trends, Dr. Moore studies child and family well-being, positive development, the determinants and consequences of early sexual activity and parenthood, fatherhood, the effects of family structure and social change on children, and the effects of public policies and poverty on children. In the youth development research area, she is working to expand information on programs that work. She has published more than 100 journal articles and books as well as numerous research briefs.

Dr. Moore has been a tireless advocate for children and an innovator on several key national data gathering efforts, including the ECLS-Kindergarten and Birth Cohorts, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, the National Survey of Children, the National Survey of Children's Health, and the Supporting Healthy Marriage evaluation survey. In addition, she was a principal investigator on the Family and Child Well-being Research Network and a founding member of the Task Force on Effective Programs and Research at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

The board of directors of Child Trends created the Kristin Anderson Moore Annual Lecture in September 2006 to honor Dr. Moore's years of leadership as president of Child Trends, from 1992 to 2006. The lecture is an opportunity for Child Trends to raise an important issue related to children's well-being and to encourage thoughtful public discussion of that issue.

Dr. Moore has won numerous awards. In 2006, she was given the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Contribution Award from the Section on Children

*kristin moore continued on page 6*

**Maureen  
Perry-  
Jenkins**



Maureen Perry-Jenkins is director of the Center for Research on Families and a professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Perry-Jenkins earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and her master's and doctorate in human development and family studies from Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Perry-Jenkins is nationally and internationally recognized for her research on the intersection of work and family and, in particular, the challenges facing low-income and working poor families as they cope with work-family life demands and with the transition to parenthood. Throughout her career, her work has been disseminated in high-impact journals, and she has received extramural support from the federal government for her research.

She also has served the field of family studies by assuming important leadership positions. Most recently, she served as an elected member of the NCFR Board of Directors, and she held officer positions for both the Research and Theory section and the Feminism and Family Studies section of NCFR. Her contributions to the field have been recognized widely by her peers, as evidenced by her membership on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, the *Journal of Family Issues*, and the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. Furthermore, in 2010 she was invited to Washington D.C. to address a federal committee developing national-level policy on workplace flexibility.

In addition to her recognitions and accomplishments as a researcher, Dr. Perry-Jenkins has received awards for her teaching at both the University of Massachusetts and the University of Illinois and was awarded the University of Massachusetts Distinguished Outreach Research Award. Her contributions to the field of family studies have been extraordinary.

# NCFR's family policy—past, present, and future

We hope that all of you are settled into 2014, and are in the midst of making plans to join us in Baltimore, Md., for this year's annual conference. While celebrating 75 years was a highlight of 2013 and this past conference, 2014 is poised to begin the next chapter in NCFR's present and future by building on our strong past. One such way this will happen will be the continuing efforts to strengthen NCFR's role in influencing family policy. Given that, the Board wanted to take a few moments to provide an update on some of the exciting opportunities related to policy that are shaping up to become an even more vibrant part of NCFR's next 75 years.

Many periods throughout NCFR's history focused on exploring, defining, redefining, and acting on our organizational roles regarding family policy. For example, at the 1968 annual conference the Family Action group was established and then given section status. The section's first work was to prepare a position paper called "The Effect of the Vietnam War on Family Life in Southeast Asia and the United States," which was sent to President Nixon and the press. This section was highly active and made NCFR more publicly visible through its efforts. These efforts also included other quite controversial topics, such as an NCFR position supporting the Equal Rights Amendment and women's access to abortion services, to name a couple.

At the same time, the diverse views of members were valued and professional conversations continued even after the position statements were passed by the Board and made public (see The NCFR History Project for more information and relevant documents, [www.ncfr.org/history](http://www.ncfr.org/history)). We believe this encouragement of the expression of diverse views has been, and is, one of NCFR's strengths. This section operated until 1990 when it became the Family Policy section. Since then, the Family Policy section has remained strong and moved NCFR and the field forward in many ways.

We believe the examples above demonstrate a strong and vibrant family policy history. Over the past years, some believed NCFR should renew and strengthen our engagement with family policy to incorporate our

past and present policy efforts, thereby charting a new path into the future. Two years ago when Dr. Elaine Anderson began her term as president, she established three sub-committees, one of which focused on strengthening NCFR policy efforts. Since then, the sub-committee has sought input from members, the policy section officers, and staff. These efforts also examined the policy work and procedures used by NCFR and similar organizations to produce organizational policy statements, policy and research briefs, etc.

The Board also spent a great deal of time reflecting on our organizational identity standards (e.g., to be the premier professional association for the multi-disciplinary understanding and strengthening of families), our mission, the role of policy in the Global Ends, and importantly, NCFR's Definition of Diversity. There were a few questions that continually came up during these discussions.

- To what extent can NCFR call itself a premier association when we are virtually silent (as a group) regarding the interpretation of research for use in policy at the same time other organizations are doing this and citing research by our members?
- Under the current tax codes for nonprofits, in what activities can we engage as an organization?
- To truly make an impact and strengthen families as defined by our definition of diversity, should we promote individual-driven policy efforts, organizational policy efforts, or both?
- Last, and most important, how can we enhance our policy presence and at the same time continue valuing and giving voice to the diversity of views our members hold?

A few things have become clear. First, we have a wealth of policy expertise in our many members, and this expertise can be used to strengthen families in more impactful ways moving forward. To do this, we need to promote both individual and organization efforts. Second, a process for creating organizational policy efforts that are based on strong research (e.g., policy briefs, research briefs) merits updating. Third, for

NCFR to be a premier association with a goal of strengthening families, we must be active and visible about the ways in which we do this and promote the use of a clearly defined "family lens." Finally, we need to balance organizational statements about the research and their potential use with a continued commitment to ongoing dialogue on potentially difficult topics and an unwavering respect for diverse views. Currently, the committee is finalizing the draft of a policy process for NCFR that incorporates everything above. The draft then will go to the Board for discussion and approval.

In the coming months this new process will be put into place. We sincerely hope it will empower each of you, and will make NCFR's voice more relevant to family professionals and policymakers than ever. Although the process is still in the drafting stage, we are committed to it being inclusive and member-driven. The result of this process will be research/policy briefs or other policy-relevant documents on topics that affect families. We believe that these products will allow NCFR to disseminate knowledge about the best ways to support and strengthen families. As we develop a process for enhancing the contribution of NCFR to family policy, we will welcome and value ongoing dialogue with members. We hope all of you are as excited as we are.

Given the Board's recent statement supporting ASA's amicus brief related to same-sex parenting and marriage, we particularly welcome and value ongoing dialogue. We also suggest using the new process, once available, to develop our own briefs on this and other topics that can strengthen all families. To be sure, while the specific controversial topics are different today compared to other decades in NCFR's history, controversial topics will always exist. In fact, they often are the most interesting and produce thoughtful dialogue, albeit sometimes heated. This reminds us of family, and NCFR is our academic family. Like most families, through healthy dialogue and collaboration we continue forward and strengthen our own ties. This renewed emphasis on NCFR's role in family policy is another conversation that will do just that as long as we remain mindful of our past, present, and future. ■



## Some thoughts on the future of NCFR

by Paul R. Amato, Ph.D., NCFR President, [paulamato00@gmail.com](mailto:paulamato00@gmail.com)

I was asked to share some thoughts at the 2013 conference on the future of our organization. I was hesitant at first. As a general rule, if you are interested in predictions, don't ask a social scientist because we have a terrible record of predicting things. We did not predict most of the major demographic shifts that fundamentally changed family life in the United States and the rest of the western world during the last half of a century. Similarly, economists did not foresee the Great Recession of 2007, which nearly wrecked the entire world economic system. This is not a good record.

So making predictions is a fool's errand. Nevertheless, because I am well qualified, and because the temptation is great, I will share a few thoughts with you about NCFR's future.

Let's start, however, by considering NCFR's early years.

In 1938, Ernest Burgess (one of our founders) wrote that one of the purposes of NCFR was to unite people in different fields of family research and welfare. His list of fields included child development, education, economics, home economics, social work, family and marriage counseling, law, biology, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, sociology, and religion. That's a long list. Interestingly, he also included eugenics, a point to which I return later.

Since 1939, NCFR has held an annual conference (at least in most years). At these early meetings, as now, people discussed research, social trends affecting families, and family life education. The first conference included many topics that still sound familiar today: the effects of unemployment on the family, the effects of divorce on children, and marriage preparation. Other session topics seem less familiar. For example, sessions focused on the parole system, housing problems, hospitalization for the poor, and the social security system.

The first issue of our journal was published in 1939. Back then it was called *Living*,

before becoming *Marriage and Family Living* in 1941, *The Journal of Marriage and the Family* in 1964, and *Journal of Marriage and Family* in 1999. The first issue of *Living* included an article on predicting success or failure in marriage, a summary of marriage laws in the United States, and a discussion of marriage education courses in high schools. The first issue also included a poem and a story for children. "Three Horses" told the story of a child named Susan who grew sleepy and dreamed of three horses: a black horse, a brown horse, and a white horse. In the dream, she couldn't decide which horse she liked best, so she decided that she liked them all equally. I think this was an early lesson in valuing diversity. Imagine JMF publishing poetry and children's stories today!

Over its 75-year history, the scope of NCFR narrowed as our organization became more focused. Not many of our members these days are high school teachers, physicians, or family law scholars. NCFR also was more involved in social policy in the past than it is today, and there were times when NCFR was more international in its outlook. These are trends that we may wish to reverse as we move into the future.

We also corrected a few early mistakes. As I mentioned, eugenics was on Burgess's list of allied disciplines. Our first conference in 1939 had a session on eugenics. And the second issue of our journal contained a comprehensive review of eugenics and its social implications. The true nature of eugenics was revealed during World War II, however, and NCFR dropped its early flirtation with this misguided idea.

NCFR has changed a lot, and if we project 75 years into the future, we can expect many more changes. Most of these will be unanticipated. Indeed, in many respects, NCFR in 2088 will be unrecognizable to us.

Despite the inherent difficulty of foreseeing the future, here are my predictions:

1. An Affiliate Council will be active on Mars. After all, the Martian colonists will

have a serious need for family life education.

2. The NCFR Board and President will be replaced by a highly intelligent but relatively inexpensive computer.

3. Rather than travel physically to annual meetings, members will immerse themselves in highly realistic holographic constructions of meeting venues. These will be held in exotic locations, such as the bottom of the ocean, the moon, or the rings of Saturn.

4. Given projected increases in longevity, it will take 100 years, rather than 25, to become a member of the Legacy Circle.

Although I'm pretty confident about these predictions, I also think the core of NCFR—promoting family research, education, and practice with the ultimate goal of strengthening families—will remain. As long as families continue to be the bedrock social institution responsible for raising children and enhancing personal health and well-being, there will be a need for NCFR.

There will be challenges as we go forward. We will need to manage the continuing tension that exists in our organization between researchers and practitioners, between qualitative and quantitative researchers, between members with socially conservative views and liberal perspectives, and between those who favor political activism and those who want to focus on the more fundamental but less glamorous job of making sure we get the facts right.

These different perspectives can never be completely reconciled, but some tension is healthy in an organization like ours. NCFR will continue to thrive as long as we can voice our differences in an atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and cooperation. As the founding fathers and mothers of the United States believed, *E pluribus unum*, out of many—one. That philosophy has kept the nation vibrant for the last 200 years, and a similar philosophy—*E pluribus NCFR*—will serve us well as we embrace the inevitable changes and inherent unpredictability of the future. ■



## Changing seasons

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

Minnesotans always talk about the weather. Because our weather can be extreme and changeable on short notice, it can have a profound effect on our daily lives. But we are used to severe winters and plan for them. Our thoughts have been with many of you throughout this winter who live in warmer climates that have been ravaged by large and unprecedented snow and ice storms. We hope warmer weather is in your forecast.

### New Fellows announced

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to members on the basis of their outstanding contributions to the field of family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach or professional service, including service to NCFR. In this issue of *NCFR Report*, we announce our newest class of Fellows: Leonor B. Johnson, Jennifer Kerpelman, Sally Lloyd, Kristin Moore, and Maureen Perry-Jenkins. Congratulations to our new Fellows. We will honor you at the annual conference in Baltimore in November at the Fellows induction ceremony.

### 2014 staff priorities

Each year the NCFR staff develops a work plan based on NCFR's global ends and other strategic goals and objectives. Top on our list for 2014 is to enhance the conference experience. Charlie Cheesebrough, our director of membership and marketing, will lead this cross-functional effort. It will include conference "boot camp" for first-time attendees; increased focus on quality of research; extra efforts to match presentation content with audience expectations;

some improvements in reception logistics; production of an expanded virtual conference experience; and even more access to conference resources and information via your mobile device.

Work is underway in the policy area with help from NCFR leadership (current and past board members and Family Policy Section leadership). Our goal this year is to develop a comprehensive plan for policy and a process to produce research briefs and policy briefs. We are on track to produce one or more briefs this year. The production process will involve our members so you will be hearing about this effort throughout the year from Jennifer Crosswhite, NCFR Director of Public Affairs.

We're going to offer more career resources for members. You will see an enhanced web presence for career resources; a survey of career resource needs; and resources aligned by career stages and professional interests. Jennifer Crosswhite and Dawn Cassidy, Director of Education, will lead this effort.

Two projects pertaining to family as a profession that began in 2012 will carry forward into 2014. We will continue the work of creating a stronger identity for the field of family science/family studies by convening a working group in Minneapolis this summer whose charge will be to articulate the needs and goals of this work. We will also continue to enhance the visibility and value of family life education to prospective employers of family life educators and

with regard to the role of prevention in the federal Affordable Care Act.

With your help we would like to expand translational and classroom instructor resources on NCFR's website. We'll start this by implementing a suggestion by one of our members to align the classroom resources to the 10 family life education content areas.

### Search for new editor for Family Relations

Ron Sabatelli, the current editor of *Family Relations*, is nearing the end of his editorial term. Dr. Sabatelli and his editorial assistant, Lindsay Edwards, have been at the helm of this journal since early 2009 with their first issue hitting the libraries in February 2010. The task of the board-appointed editor search committee will be to find the person who is ready and able to step into this prestigious editor position. If you have an interest or know someone whose knowledge, expertise and body of work qualifies him or her for this position, please contact Jeanne Strand at [jeannestrand@ncfr.org](mailto:jeannestrand@ncfr.org). The search committee will work throughout 2014 to select an editor. The new editorial office will begin to receive submissions in early 2015 and will publish its first issue of FR in 2016.

### 2014 NCFR conference

Finally, please mark your calendar for November 18 through 22, 2014, and plan to join your colleagues at the NCFR annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme for this year's conference is *Families at the Nexus of Global Change*. It promises to be an outstanding professional experience. ■

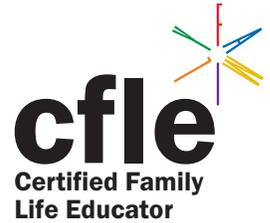
## Thank you donors

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

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Charles Cheesebrough	Megan Haselschwerdt	Jason Samuels
Diane Cushman	Tammy Henderson	The Meeting Connection, Inc., Dwight Loken, President

### *kristin moore* continued from page 3

and Youth. In 2009, the ASA Sociological Practice & Public Sociology Section awarded Kristin the William Foote Whyte Award, which honors sociologists who have contributed their sociological insights to improve the world and inform the public. In 2010, she was selected as researcher of the year by the Healthy Teen Network. ■



## Entertainment education. An opportunity for family life education

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

I'm a fan of the TV show *Parenthood*. It provides a mostly realistic window into many of the issues families regularly face. The members of the Braverman family have struggled with everything from adolescent sexuality and unintended pregnancy, retirement, dual careers, single parenthood, cancer, infidelity, adoption, running a family business, the effects of military service, and Asperger's Syndrome. In this current season Crosby is struggling with the realities of a fussy newborn and concern over the fact that he has not yet bonded with his new daughter. Sometimes the Bravermans do a great job of dealing with these issues and other times, not so much. In either case the show provides numerous opportunities to learn about healthy family functioning and normalizes the fact that family life is messy.

A recent Child Trends posting noted that the MTV show *16 and Pregnant* had a role in contributing to a lower teen pregnancy rate as measured by changes in internet searches and Tweets, Nielson ratings to capture geographic variation in viewership, and vital statistic birth data. The article was titled "Entertainment education's role in reducing teen pregnancy." I'm well aware of the impact of TV and movies in providing family life education, whether incidentally or purposefully. In fact, one of the outcomes of the Focused Dialogue work that NCFR is doing with Ellen Taner, deals specifically with using the media to influence the public's perception of the value and normalcy of participating in various forms of family life education. NCFR member and CFLE, Scott

Tobias is working with Ellen to determine how we can accomplish this goal.

While I was familiar with the concept of providing education through entertainment, I was not aware of the term *education entertainment*. I did a little internet browsing and learned that it is a identified term and established approach with references back to Aesop's fables and in more recent history, *School House Rocks*, *Sesame Street*, and *Bill Nye the Science Guy*.

Another example of entertainment education involved a recent study at the University of Rochester that found that couples who participated in guided discussions about their relationship after viewing selected movies showed a reduced rate of separation or divorce (24 to 11 percent after three years). The "relationship awareness through film" approach was equally effective to approaches centered on conflict management and compassion and acceptance training. Granted, the couples were provided with a series of questions to guide their discussion and chose to participate in the study, but the results are still impressive.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 88% of Americans learn about health issues from TV. The CDC works in partnership with an organization called Hollywood, Healthy & Society (HH&S) at the University of Southern California's Norman Lear Center to share public health information with storyline creators. The CDC's efforts include the creation of tip sheets with credible information on pressing health issues; participation in HHS meetings for show creators and network officials that inform them of the full range of services available; and expert panel discussions to examine the implications of dramatizing critical health issues.

Needless to say, NCFR is in the perfect position to be a resource, like the CDC, for Hollywood, Health & Society and other related organizations. Our members have

### Certified Family Life Educators

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

<b>District of Columbia</b> Andrea Kinghorn	Tammy Britton Jennifer Dorfmeier	<b>Pennsylvania</b> Kami Merrifield	FULL
<b>Florida</b> Susan Freedman-Noa Sara Walter	Magnolia Jones Julia Kuntz Justin Litzner Kelly Spallone Sherria Taylor	<b>Tennessee</b> Rachel Konen	
<b>Idaho</b> Aubrey Nocito		<b>Texas</b> DeAnna Benavides Claudea Blythe Trina Cowan Ashley Guillory Chris Hill	FULL
<b>Illinois</b> Tracy Carrington	<b>Minnesota</b> Amy Lash Essau Margaret Minke	Nicole McAninch Karin Swenson	FULL
<b>Kentucky</b> Helyne Frederick	<b>Nevada</b> Jennifer Gianola	<b>Utah</b> Hannah Coleman Green Elizabeth Hu	FULL
<b>Louisiana</b> Laverne Dunn Emmy Mouton	<b>New York</b> Valerie Graf Yuh Fen Lee	<b>Virginia</b> Katie Barrow	FULL
<b>Maryland</b> Abigail Burton Erika Mardaga	<b>North Carolina</b> Sheryl Alba Virginia Rodillas Amy Wibirt	<b>Washington</b> Sarah Feeney	FULL
<b>Massachusetts</b> Jessica Ondras	<b>Ohio</b> Chelsea Standley	<b>Wisconsin</b> Paige Flietner	
<b>Michigan</b> Stacy Bauer Sulyn Bettinghouse	<b>Oregon</b> Paula Dawson		FULL

*cfle directions continued on page 8*

# Advancing Family Science



by Bahira Sharif Trask, Chair; [bstrask@udel.edu](mailto:bstrask@udel.edu)

As those of you who follow our section are aware, we have had a bit of an identity crisis--who are we, what do we represent, who do we want to be, who do we want to represent--and of course, how can we assist in moving our discipline forward.



In order to facilitate this discussion we have had both online dialogues and discussions at our last two annual NCFR meetings. This exercise has turned out to be quite productive: we have generated a long list of potential names and, in part, have encouraged various stimulating sessions and workshops on the current and future status of the Family Science discipline. From my perspective at least, this has been an important and necessary discussion.

While much of this dialogue and soul searching has been driven by the high number of incorrectly placed conference submissions to our section, I believe this discussion has a much broader purpose: to stimulate a vision of how we create a broader and more unified conceptualization of the discipline.

In addition, the various discussions have illustrated that each of us at our various universities is dealing with very similar issues. We are all in a position where we have to “prove” to our higher administrations why our discipline matters – even though we have very popular classes. Most problematic to that end is that most students only end up finding us “accidentally” once they are on campus. And yet, in my mind, Family Science represents a discipline for the future. Family Science is translational, applied and interdisciplinary. Exactly the

kind of melding that is so often encouraged these days at universities, at least in theory. Moreover, many of us are interested in teaching techniques and new ways to make our work relevant to students who have been raised in the age of social media, Instagram and snap chats!

Our section provides a place for debate on these issues and a forum for practical suggestions. In that spirit, it has been suggested that a potential new name for our section is “Advancing Family Science.” Later this month, we will be sending out a survey to our section membership. I ask that you vote if you are in favor of this name change or not. And I thank everyone for their enthusiastic participation in this whole exercise. We are truly engaged in moving our discipline into the new world for which we are preparing our students and other professionals. ■

## **cfle directions** continued from page 7

knowledge and expertise in a full range of family issues, and NCFR as an organization has the infrastructure to connect those needing this information with those that have it. Through what we are calling the FLE Value and Visibility effort, we are reaching out to the HHS as well as producers at Sesame Street specifically, to determine the role that NCFR can play in influencing entertainment education. Sesame Street, as an example, has addressed the issues of divorce, death, and incarcerated parents, among others. By collaborating with an organization like HHS

and connecting with producers of shows like Sesame Street, NCFR has the opportunity to influence the quality of the information shared about family functioning and promote the inclusion of research-based family life education content in television shows and movies.

There are two approaches that we can take. We can attempt to influence TV and movie producers to incorporate examples of family life education into story lines. How great would it be if some TV episodes depicted families attending a class on parent education or participating in a couples weekend just to strengthen their marriage rather than because there was trouble (although that would be ok too). Increased incidences of people participating in some form of family life education as part of the story line could help to normalize that approach to family living.

But it doesn't have to be that overt. A number of years ago CFLE Kristy Smith wrote an article in the *CFLE Network* about *stealth family life education* where she shared information about the opportunity to provide family life education to people without them even knowing it. There are hundreds of examples of TV shows and movies providing valuable information and guidance regarding family issues. It is likely that most viewers do not even realize they just received a lesson in couple communication, learned something about birth control,

picked up an important tip for how not to deal with a teenager, or were reassured that they were not alone in their frustration over dealing with their newborn. Perhaps through intentional efforts to influence the practice of education entertainment, NCFR can have a positive impact on American families. ■

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## In memoriam

### NCFR members who passed away in 2013

Suzanne M. Bianchi; Nov. 4, 2013; Santa Monica, California

J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr.; Sept. 1, 2013; Round Rock, Texas

Susan Jean Eitel; May 30, 2013; Denton, Texas

Charles B. Hennon; May 14, 2013; Hamilton, Ohio

Lonnie Robert Maurer; June 1, 2013; Conklin, Michigan

Leah Cahan Schaeffer; Jan. 25, 2013; New York, New York

## 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 [charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org](mailto:charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org)



Susan H. McDaniel, William J. Doherty, and Jeri Hepworth (2013). *Medical Family Therapy and Integrated Care*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association Books

Gerald R. Weeks and Stephen T. Fife (2014). *Couples in Treatment: Techniques and Approaches for Effective Practice*. New York: Routledge

Paul C. Rosenblatt (2014). *The Impact of Racism on African American Families: Literature As Social Science*. Farnham, Surrey, United Kingdom: Ashgate

Murray A. Straus, Emily M. Douglas, and Rose Anne Medeiros (2013). *The Primordial Violence: Spanking Children, Psychological Development, Violence, and Crime*. New York: Routledge

Thomas N. Bradbury and Benjamin R. Karney (2014). *Love Me Slender: How Smart Couples Team Up to Lose Weight, Exercise More, and Stay Healthy Together*. New York: Simon & Schuster

Melinda Blau and Tracy Hogg (2014). *Family Whispering: The Baby Whisperer's Commonsense Strategies for Communicating and Connecting with the People You Love and Making Your Whole Family Stronger*. New York: Atria Books

Bahira Sherif Trask (2013). *Women, Work, and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities*. New York: Routledge

Kristi Palmer (2013). *Professor K's Top Ten Ways to Have a Happy Marriage!* Amazon Digital Services

Barbara Nicholson and Lysa Parker (2013). *Attached at the Heart: Eight Proven Parenting Principles for Raising Connected and Compassionate Children*. Deerfield Beach: Health Communications, Inc.

Nathaniel M. Lambert (2013). *Publish and Prosper: A Strategy Guide for Students and Researchers*. New York: Routledge

Alan J. Hawkins, Tamara A. Fackrell, and Steven M. Harris (2013). *Should I Try to Work It Out? A Guidebook for Individuals and Couples at the Crossroads of Divorce*. North Charleston, South Carolina: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

Thomas N. Bradbury and Benjamin R. Karney (2013). *Intimate Relationships (Second Edition)*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company

Bert Adams (2013). *An American Family in Amin's Uganda*. Nairobi: Old Africa Books

Mihaela Robila (ed.) (2013). *Handbook of Family Policies Across the Globe*. New York: Springer Science

Lisa M. Hooper, Luciano L'Abate, Laura G. Sweeney, Giovanna Giancesini, and Peter J. Jankowski (2013). *Models of Psychopathology: Generational Processes and Relational Roles*. New York: Springer Science

Katherine M. Hertlein and Markie L. C. Blumer (2013). *The Couple and Family Technology Framework: Intimate Relationships in a Digital Age*. New York: Routledge

Alan J. Hawkins (2013). *The Forever Initiative: A Feasible Public Policy Agenda to Help Couples Form and Sustain Healthy Marriages and Relationships*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

Mary Ann Mason, Nicholas H. Wolfinger, and Marc Goulden (2013) *Do Babies Matter? Gender and Family in the Ivory Tower*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press

## grant winners from page 1

Environmental Sciences. Dr. Randall is affiliated with Arizona State University's School of Letters and Sciences in Tempe, Arizona.

The recipients will report on their research at the 2014 NCFR Annual Conference.

### About the grant program

The NCFR Board spearheaded this exciting new initiative to highlight the interdisciplinary and translational research and practice for which the organization is known. It builds on NCFR's rich heritage and ongoing commitment to promoting innovative interdisciplinary approaches to theory, research, and practice to support the well-being of families. The grant initiative is an investment in innovative interdisciplinary approaches to facilitating the NCFR Global Ends:

- providing opportunities for professional development and knowledge development in family research, theory, policy, education, and practice
- supporting the dissemination and application of research and theory based information about family well-being and
- establishing standards for research, education, and practice by advocating for the development and advancement of the profession.

The NCFR Board will be accepting proposals for the 2014-15 round of NCFR Innovation Grants in the near future; watch for announcements. ■

## 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](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 Charles Cheesebrough at 763-231-2885 or via email at [charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org](mailto:charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org) for information on our scholarly research.

# Inclusion and Diversity Committee

## The IDC and its work—a brief update



Submitted by Bill Allen, NCFR President-elect, representing the Inclusion and Diversity Committee

Inclusion and valuing diversity have been important themes within NCFR for several decades. The Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) began as a spontaneous, informal expression of members deeply committed to valuing diversity. Many readers might associate the IDC with NCFR's Ethnic Minority Section from which many of its earliest members emerged. However over the years, members from other sections and focus groups were increasingly active in shaping both the activities and goals of the IDC. Eventually, the IDC was incorporated as a Board committee to emphasize its importance within the organization. This brief article will provide readers with a short history of the IDC, a list of some of its achievements, and finally, suggest ways members might get involved with its work.

A complete history of the IDC is presented in a previous article (*NCFR Report*, Summer 2010, Vol.55.2), but some important points to know are that the IDC emerged from an ongoing dialogue that spanned several annual conferences. These discussions were primarily about the growing need for attention to diversity within NCFR and the family science field. From the beginning participants understood that families and family forms were varying in a wide range of domains beyond ethnicity and culture. Thus, there was (and continues to be) a pressing need for family research, education, and practice to reflect this increasing diversity in more nuanced ways than simply noting the physical characteristics (e.g., skin color) of research subjects, students or clients. Similarly, the methods used to study, teach about, and work with families have needed to evolve in ways that maximize our ability to account for the complexity of family relationships (rather than simply our ability to replicate what we think we already know). This has often meant integrating research methods, teaching styles, and clinical tools from differing disciplines in order to better serve the needs of families and the relationships they encounter.

To this end, IDC developed a definition of diversity intended to guide its work. This definition provided a common starting point for NCFR members to use in their efforts at incorporating family diversity in their

research and practice. The next logical step was for the IDC to reach out to NCFR members in order to understand better their lived experience of inclusion and diversity within the organization. This was the rationale for the recent NCFR Inclusion and Diversity Member Survey in which many of you participated. The survey produced a wealth of information, some of it never before collected from and about NCFR's membership.

Although the data analysis process continues, a few preliminary findings emerging from the survey are worth noting. These include the following:

- The majority of NCFR members who responded to the survey reported more experiences of feeling supported and respected (inclusion) than experiences of feeling marginalized (exclusion).
- Ethnicity, political affiliation, and religious affiliation were among the factors influencing the exclusion experiences of some members.
- Relatively newer members of NCFR (less than five years) were less likely to report feeling excluded than members with 11 to 20 years in the organization.

As mentioned before, these are very preliminary findings and more analysis is needed to understand them. For instance, we are not sure what time frame members may have been using to answer questions about their inclusion or exclusion experiences. It is also unclear which groups might be more (or less) at risk for experiencing feelings of exclusion. (For example, although political affiliation appeared to be an important factor, it might cause an NCFR member with a particular political view to feel "at home" while leaving another member with a differing view feeling like an "outsider.") But these results also suggest hopeful insights about membership growth and development. For example, the preliminary findings suggest that NCFR is doing a good job providing newcomers with welcoming, inclusive membership experiences. NCFR may want to continue to pay close attention to newer members to ensure that they have opportunities to find their place in the organization. This might take the form of increased communications to and with new members,

or greater opportunities for mentoring with others, not just at the new member's home institution, but across the organization.

Although the initial quantitative analysis of members' responses has been an important first step, there are questions emerging from the preliminary findings that can more readily be answered by in-depth, qualitative analysis. A qualitative task force within the IDC has been formed to facilitate a deeper analysis of the membership survey. The task force will include members of the Qualitative Family Research Network Focus Group (QFRN) who will work collaboratively to develop a richer, more comprehensive understanding of membership inclusion and exclusion experiences. This knowledge, in turn, should facilitate NCFR's continuing effort to effectively incorporate the views and talents of all its members in our work together.

The recent membership survey should be viewed as part of a larger process of ongoing discernment (rather than a one-time event) for several reasons. Due to the fact that NCFR is a multi-disciplinary body, one snapshot is unlikely to capture its complexity at any given time. Moreover, the dynamic nature of the field demands that we keep our collective finger on the pulse of what members are doing and how they think about what they are doing. Issues and methods that were significant 20 years ago may seem less important 20 years from now. As NCFR, the families it studies, and the world in which it operates all become increasingly diverse, we will need to periodically look inward and ask whether or not our organizational processes facilitate (or hinder) our work.

Thus, looking forward, a major role for the IDC is to facilitate a continuing dialogue among NCFR members about how to harness its diversity as a resource, rather than an obstacle. Members play a critical role in that process. This article is one step in educating members about the IDC's work. Another effort already underway is IDC work with and for key stakeholders within NCFR (like the Board, the Affiliate Councils, Sections, Focus Groups, and the Annual Conference Program Planning Committee). The IDC is working to find additional, collaborative

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# SNP Leadership Council—updates, highlights, and new directions



by Lyndal Khaw, Students and New Professionals Representative, NCFR Board, [khawl@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:khawl@mail.montclair.edu)

As an active NCFR member since 2004, NCFR has been my chosen professional home, primarily because of the numerous research and leadership opportunities it offers to its members.



My experience serving on the Board of Directors for the last two years has solidified my dedication to our organization and charge to represent student and new professional members. As I embark into my last year of serving on the Board, I offer some updates and highlights from past years and insights into the exciting new directions of the SNP Leadership Council.

One of our primary goals has been to increase the involvement and visibility of SNPs in NCFR throughout the year and not just during the NCFR conference. Thanks to the tireless support of NCFR staff Jeanne Strand and Charlie Cheesebrough, the Leadership Council has been able to connect via four quarterly conference calls throughout 2012 and 2013. Members of the Leadership Council have volunteered to take turns co-leading these conference calls. I have found these calls to be pertinent and productive, particularly as we discuss ideas for more SNP engagement in NCFR. These quarterly “check-ins” have also been increasingly important as our council grows. We currently now have 10 state/regional affiliates and 25

student affiliates, up from 9 and 18 respectively, five years ago.

As we grow, a major challenge has been in supporting transitions of roles and responsibilities of SNP leaders. Indeed, resources have been set in place to make these transitions more seamless. For example, in 2013 the SNP Handbook was finalized, thanks to the hard work of Marissa Stone (Family Science Section SNP representative, 2011-2012) and Jeanne Strand. This handbook details the roles and responsibilities of members in the SNP Leadership Council and has been shared with the existing and incoming SNP Steering Committee and section SNP representatives

Further, NCFR staff Allison Wickler has served as a liaison to the Affiliate Councils Board, providing much-needed support and resources in forming and maintaining successful state/regional and student affiliate councils. Having helped form the newest student affiliate council at Montclair State University in New Jersey, I had firsthand experience utilizing these wonderful resources

*snp leadership council continued on back page*

## New NCFR focus group guidelines

The focus groups of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) are an important component of the organization that foster common interests at the grassroots level of the membership and contribute to coherence among members.

In the summer of 2012, a Focus Group Task Force was formed to examine the history and future of NCFR’s focus groups. The task force had an initial conference call and met face-to-face at the annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona; prior to the meeting in Phoenix, the focus group chairs completed a survey about how their groups operated. Some of the topics the task force discussed were: the role of focus groups; connection to NCFR’s sections; beginning new focus groups and dissolving old ones; and combining focus groups.

The NCFR Focus Group Guidelines were approved after several discussions with the task force, focus group chairs, and section chairs. **The major change in the operations of focus groups is that they no longer will be sponsored by sections, and will instead report directly to NCFR headquarters.** Further guidelines for starting, dissolving, and operating a focus group include the following:

- An NCFR focus group consists of at least 15 current NCFR members with a specific interest that is not central to any existing

NCFR section or other NCFR focus group.

- All focus group members must be current members of NCFR.
- NCFR focus groups must meet annually at the NCFR Annual Conference.
- A focus group that abides by the guidelines will be given: a time and space to assemble at the NCFR Annual Conference; an NCFR sponsored listserv; and a page on the NCFR website.
- Suggested focus group activities:
  - Network and develop opportunities for professional collaboration
  - Discuss possible annual conference proposal submission ideas
  - Share ideas about teaching, journal submissions, and organizing qualitative research to be more productive
  - Share information on current research and other resources
  - Assist sections with special projects (e.g., acting on specialist resources for conference submission reviews, collaborating on sponsoring special sessions, collaborating on awards)

The NCFR membership voted to approve revisions to the NCFR bylaws that remove sponsorship of focus groups from the sections. Sections will support focus groups as appropriate. ■

Focus Groups: [www.ncfr.org/focus-groups](http://www.ncfr.org/focus-groups)

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opportunities like these to build its understanding of membership experiences while sharing that knowledge more widely throughout the organization. Therefore we welcome and appreciate suggestions from all NCFR members.

Most of all, the IDC has been and continues to be a focal point for the organization’s efforts to be inclusive of all its members and to faithfully represent and encourage the spectrum of views within the membership. We encourage members to continue to be open to the views of others even when these may appear to differ or even be diametrically opposed to our own. Judging from our past history, it seems we too easily forget our shared commitment to families when too narrowly focused on the one or two issues on which we disagree. It is that tendency to highlight narrow differences at the expense of shared common goals and experiences that seems at the heart of our political crises here in the United States and around the world. Perhaps we can show the world something better... ■

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**Family Focus on...  
Families and the Criminal  
Justice System**

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and have continued to reach out to Allison and other affiliates for guidance and support.

Over the next few months, plans are underway to continue engaging more members of the Leadership Council, in particular, the 25 (and growing) student affiliates throughout the country. Indeed, many of NCFR's undergraduate and graduate student members and new professionals are active agents of change within their own campuses and local communities. We want to highlight some of these important efforts and accomplishments in future issues of *NCFR Report*.

In addition, we would like to build upon our mentoring initiatives for SNPs in NCFR. Consistent with the Board's interest to expand the international scope of NCFR, we initiated a trial international mentoring program for SNPs at the NCFR conference in Phoenix in 2012. This trial program provided us with much information on how we can move forward with this idea. Many of us know from experience that positive mentoring relationships can be a crucial part of successful professional development. Thus, this year, we plan to find ways to formalize this process for SNPs and working with NCFR sections and student affiliates to create mentoring opportunities for SNPs. These future goals are just a snapshot of what is to come from the SNP Leadership Council and I am excited of what we will accomplish this year.

NCFR is all about making connections and one of the best parts of my "job" is working with some of the most dedicated and enthusiastic NCFR members. Here I take the opportunity to share how humbling it has been

to work with and learn from the 2012-2013 members of the SNP Steering Committee (Ron Cox, Claire Kimberly, and Sterling Wall) as well as many of the section SNP representatives and affiliate council leaders. Last year was also a year of transitions. I express much thanks to outgoing steering committee member Sterling Wall; section SNP representatives Diana Baltimore, Kristen Benson, Kimberly Crossman, Jaerim Lee, Bryce Jorgensen, and Brian Ogolsky; and Affiliate Council Presidents Duane Dowd and Betsy Hundt. Your service to

and leadership in your respective sections, organizations, and/or the SNP Leadership Council have been inspiring.

Likewise, I extend a big welcome to our incoming officers: Steering Committee members Rachel Engler, Nate Cottle, and Anthony James; section SNP representatives Morgan Cooley, Lorien Jordan, Kevin Zimmerman, Vanja Lazarevic, Greg Brooks, and Shannon Corkery; and Affiliate Council Presidents Sarah Feeney and Lydia Pfluger. I look forward to working with all of you! ■

## Our NCFR family



Although these gentlemen are not actually related, NCFR is such a part of their lives that they've earned inclusion in *Our NCFR Family*. Dennis Orthner, Jay Mancini, and Gary Bowen (left to right) are NCFR Fellows, have held dozens of elected offices and committee positions among them, and collectively have contributed about a hundred member years of service to the organization.

Dennis, Jay, and Gary are pictured here in the Alps after traveling to Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, in December where they presented a lecture on networks, connections and relationships. "The lecture gave us an opportunity to discuss our theory and research program centered on families and communities, with particular attention to building community capacity to support families," Jays says. Our guess is that the three scholars also found time for sightseeing, shopping at the outdoor markets, and some holiday cheer. ■