

Report

June 2002

Volume 47:2



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Bridging Research
and Practice
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If knowledge is power, then family scientists are powerful. Their research can shape public policy, inform the work of family-serving agencies, and allow practitioners to become more effective. But to do this, researchers must go beyond discovery to application and practice.

In this issue, we explore how family scientists are using research data to create successful programs for children and families, help communities meet the needs of youth, and influence policymakers. As always, we welcome your comments.

NEXT ISSUE:
Welfare Reform II

2002 NCFR Election Results Announced



Lawrence H. Ganong, Ph.D.



Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D.



Jane B. Tornatore, Ph.D.



Adriana J. Umaña-Taylor, Ph.D., CFLE

At-Large Board Members elected for the 2002-2005 term are:

Lawrence H. Ganong, Ph.D., Professor of Nursing and Human Development and Family Studies, University of Missouri. He has served as Vice President of the Family and Health Section, member of the Rueben Hill Award Committee, Book Review Editor for *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and member of the Research and Theory, Feminism and Family Studies and Family and Health Sections.

Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., Director, Youth & Family Consortium, University of Minnesota; adjunct professor, Department of Family Social Services and Institute of Child Development. She was also a contributor to *Public Policy Through a Family Lens: Sustaining Families in the 21st Century*, an annual conference presenter and a member of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations.

Jane B. Tornatore, Ph.D., Research Associate, V.A. Puget Sound Health Care System. She served as a board member of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations and a member of the Family and Health and Feminism and Family Studies Sections.



Jay D. Teachman, Ph.D.

Adriana J. Umaña-Taylor, Ph.D., CFLE, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Umaña-Taylor will serve as the Board Student/New Professional from 2002-2004. She is the S/NP Representative for the Ethnic Minorities Section; developed the Ethnic Minorities Teaching Resource Manual (Volumes I and II);

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Another Successful Public Policy Conference

The 3rd Annual Public Policy Conference took place April 18-19, 2002 in Washington D.C. Over 65 conference attendees convened to engage in the very current discussion of TANF Reauthorization, NIH research funding priorities, and issues that relate to rural families.

The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. Authorization for the TANF

program ends September 30, 2002. For the TANF program to continue, the United States Congress must pass, and the President must sign, legislation reauthorizing that program prior to that date. Although reauthorization could simply involve extending the funding period, it is more likely that Congress and the President will consider several key policy changes. During the same time period, Congress will also consider other legislation affecting low-income families and children, including the reauthorization of the Food Stamp and child-care programs, and the future of welfare-to-work legislation.

TANF Reauthorization remains an ongoing and urgent topic in Washington. While we were in Washington, TANF bills were being debated in the House. Unfortunately, our keynote speaker, Wade Horn, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Administration for Children and Families, was requested to provide testimony in the House at the same time he was scheduled to speak at the NCFR conference. Dr. Horn's Chief of Staff, Mr. Grant Collins, replaced Dr. Wade Horn as the keynoter.

U.S. Representative Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii) presented her TANF Reauthorization bill (HR 3113) to conference attendees.

Mrs. Mink developed her bill, which is based on educational opportunities and strengthening families, by determining how TANF best serves "real families." (In mid-May, the House passed its version of the TANF bill that focused more on jobs and less on education as a means to helping people out of poverty. Essentially, the Republican-passed legislation would "subsidize state programs that encourage marriage and premarital sexual abstinence; continue to deny welfare to legal immigrants; and give governors substantial new powers to redesign welfare, food stamps, housing and other anti-poverty programs." The Senate is currently working on its version of TANF reauthorization.) NCFR also honored U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) with the Congressional Service to Families Award. As she accepted her award, Mrs. Jackson Lee acknowledged the quality of research, education and service work that NCFR and its members have done to advance the concerns of families and children in the U.S.

As in the past, the conference concluded with Congressional Hill Visits: conference attendees met with their Members of Congress to discuss the role of NCFR in family policy and TANF Reauthorization. The visits were hugely successful.

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Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for the Report:

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

President: Carol Anderson Darling
Editor: Michael L. Benjamin
Managing Editor: Sasha A. Smith
Topics Feature Writer: Nancy Giguere

NCFR Report is published quarterly by the National Council on Family Relations, 3989 Central Ave. N.E., Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55421, Fax: 763-781-9348, website: www.ncfr.org

Third class postage permit.

Report subscription rate: \$20.00 per year; \$5.00 per copy. For bulk rates, call 888-781-9331, ext. 14. Annual membership dues include *Report* subscription. \$15.00 U.S. postage per year postpaid at individual rate.

NEWS DEADLINES: January 8 for March issue; April 9 for June issue; July 9 for September issue; October 1 for December issue.

One copy of any portion of this publication can be made for personal use. Additional reprints of this publication are available by contacting NCFR headquarters at the address above. Bulk rates available.

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Above: The 2001-2002 NCFR Board of Directors. Above right: Margaret Feldman (left) and Marilyn Bensman (right) at the 3rd Annual Public Policy Conference. Right: Maxine Hammonds-Smith (right) presented U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (left) with the Congressional Service to Families Award.



ELECTION RESULTS *continued from page 1*

Abstract Reviewer for Feminism and Family Studies Section, Ethnic Minorities Section, and Student/New Professional Section; served as a Presider, Recorder, and/or Discussant for the Ethnic Minorities and Feminism and Family Studies Sections at the annual conference, and was the recipient of the NCFR Affiliate Councils Outstanding Student Paper Award and a Certified Family Life Educator.

Jay D. Teachman, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Western Washington University. He will serve as the Program Chair-Elect for 2002-2003, then as Conference Chair for the 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Teachman served as the Secretary/Treasurer, Feminism and Family Studies

Section, serves on the Reuben Hill Committee and Chair of the Rueben Hill Committee, served on the Editorial Board for *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and Deputy Editor for *Journal of Marriage and Family*; Reuben Hill Award Recipient, and NCFR Fellow.

National Elections Council members elected to 3-year terms (2002-2005) are:

- **Jerelyn B. Schultz, Ph.D.**, Professor, Human Development & Family Science, Ohio State University; and
- **Lynn Blinn Pike, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia; Extension Human Development and Family Studies State Specialist; Director, Center on Adolescent Sexuality, Pregnancy and Parenting.

National Fellowship Committee members elected to 2-year terms (2002-2004) are:

- **Alan I. Sugawara, Ph.D.**, Emeritus Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences, Oregon State University; and
- **Brent C. Miller, Ph.D.**, Vice President for Research, Utah State University.

SECTION OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2002-2004 WERE:

Education and Enrichment

Lynette J. Olson, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair Elect; **Sally R. Bowman, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Sharon M. Ballard, Ph.D., CFLE**, Student/New Professional.

Ethnic Minorities

Farrell J. Webb, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; **April L. Few, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Heather Hathaway Miranda, M.A.** and **Ani Yazedjian, M.S.**, Student/New Professionals.

Family and Health

Barbara L. Mandleco, R.N., Ph.D., Chair-Elect; **Kathleen A. O'Rourke, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **M. Elise Radina, M.S., CFLE**, Student/New Professional.

Family Policy

Nancy E. Walker, Ph.D., M.L.S., Chair-Elect; **Jacqueline J. Kirby, Ph.D., CFLE**, Secretary/Treasurer.


Family Science

Laura S. Smart, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair; **Jennie Long Dilworth, Ph.D., CFLE**, Vice Chair; **Maureen Blankemeyer, Ph.D., CFLE**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Tammy Harpel, M.S.**, Student/New Professional.

Family Therapy

Volker K. Thomas, Ph.D., Chair-Elect; **Colleen M. Peterson, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Michael M. Olson, Ph.D.**, Student/New Professional; **Scott P. Gardner, Ph.D.**, Member-At-Large; **Karen H. Rosen, Ed.D.**, Liaison.

Research and Theory

Ralph LaRossa, Ph.D., **Harriette P. McAdoo, Ph.D.**, and **Patricia Voydanoff, Ph.D.**, Nominating Committee; **Marilyn Coleman, Ed.D.**, Reuben Hill Chair. 

NCFR Fellows Sought!

You must know someone who deserves to be awarded the honorary title of NCFR Fellow for their outstanding contributions to the field of family studies through teaching, scholarship, outreach or professional services! If you do, would you consider nominating that outstanding person?

WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP STATUS IN NCFR?

Fellowship status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few members of NCFR 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. By definition, outstanding contributions are those that have had a broad impact on the field and are enduring over time. These contributions occur infrequently. No more than 1% of the number of members in NCFR will be awarded fellowship status in any one year.

Examples of outstanding contributions having an enduring impact on the field include, but are not limited to:

- Published scholarship that has reshaped or shaped the field of family relations.
- A history of innovation or influential workshop presentation in an area of the family beyond the local level.
- The development and implementation of innovative, novel or significant interventions or programs designed to promote healthy family relations.
- The development and implementation of innovative curricula for training professionals in the area of family science.
- The development of innovative social policy relevant to families.
- A consistent record of superior contributions to NCFR over time.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR FELLOWSHIP STATUS?

- Fellowship status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few members of NCFR 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.
- Must be nominated by another NCFR member.
- Must have at least 10 years of professional experience after the receipt of the appropriate graduate or professional degree. *Fellows Sought continued on page 4*

The National Council on Family Relations Bylaws Revisions were approved by a majority of the votes. You can view the revised NCFR Bylaws on our website at www.ncfr.org



President's Report

NCFR Sections: A Key to Involvement

When I encourage students and other interested persons to become members of NCFR, they often ask "Should I join a section, and why?" Although joining one or more sections is optional, it is a key to involvement in our organization. Since section activities can vary, I would like to share some of the opportunities that can exist through section membership.

The purpose of sections is to promote NCFR's mission and the common interests of NCFR members in specified areas of concern to families. Both the growth of membership in NCFR and the proliferation of special interests have brought about a need for sections. They are a means of increasing communication and interaction among NCFR members of similar interests within the framework of the larger organization. Sections also provide an

opportunity for members to participate actively in NCFR. By occupying various leadership roles in sections, individual members may receive recognition for accomplishments in their specialty and also ensure that their substantive interests are recognized in the program at the national meeting and in other NCFR activities.

What is the array of interests served by sections? While there are ten sections that provide opportunities to exchange ideas, research, and information, some sections also have various focus groups that are affiliated with them. A focus group is comprised of NCFR members with a specific family life interest that is related to an existing NCFR section, but not the sole focus of that section. Of our 4,004 total NCFR members, 1,806 members belong to one section, but many belong to more than one section since the membership total for all sections is 3,589.

Section chairs wanted me to share some of their activities to encourage those of you who are interested to join them. They welcome your involvement.

The **Education and Enrichment Section** strives to develop conference programs that reflect the interdisciplinary interests and concerns of section members. It is especially committed to organizing sessions that include the application of research for practitioners and educators. To facilitate the development of young scholars and educators, the section supports student travel awards for outstanding conference proposals, along with travel funds for the Student/New Professional Representative. Awards and recognitions are also given to those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Education and Enrichment throughout their careers. The section frequently sponsors preconference workshops to enhance the teaching competencies of new, as well as experienced educators. Seven Focus Groups are affiliated with this section including Certified Family Educator, Families and

Grief, Marketing Family Life Education, Marriage and Family Enrichment, Parent Education, Peace, and Sexuality.

The **Ethnic Minorities Section** unites members of NCFR who are concerned with creating a better understanding of the variations in families from diverse ethnic groups. An annual oral history session following the business meeting serves to pass on the history of the section to new members in the oral tradition of many ethnic families. The section also strives to increase the participation of members in

Sections provide wonderful opportunities for networking and becoming involved in NCFR.

NCFR and its annual programs. Special activities include the section's Marie Peters Award for outstanding contributions of NCFR members to knowledge about ethnic minority families. The section has also formalized its tradition of mentoring students and new professionals. The section sponsors the John L. McAdoo dissertation award for student members of the section for the completion of an approved doctoral dissertation with a focus on issues related to families of color.

The goal of the **Family & Health Section** is to promote the health of diverse families and their members through interdisciplinary activities that facilitate excellence in family health practice, research, education, and policy development. Each year the section sponsors a Student/New Professional (S/NP) award competition for a paper submission of exceptional merit. Two focus groups are affiliated with this section including Chronic Illness and Disability, as well as Issues in Aging.

The **Family Policy Section** is excited about the NCFR's expanding interest in public policy and is working closely with NCFR's Public Policy Committee. Over the years the Family Policy Section has organized a series of workshops and panels that have

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FELLOWS SOUGHT

continued from page 3

- Must have been a member of NCFR for at least 5 continuous years at the time of nomination.
- Must have the endorsement of three individuals (including the nominator), at least two of whom are NCFR members, who describe the outstanding nature of the nominee's contributions.
- Must have a consistent record of superior contributions to NCFR over time.

Please send your nominations to NCFR at jryberg@ncfr.org. NCFR will reply with further instructions on getting started and the information regarding membership status. Deadline for nominations is August 1st. We are trying to build this special recognition to further the legacy of outstanding members of NCFR. Let us hear from you!

*Harriette P. McAdoo, Chair
NCFR Fellowship Committee
E-mail: mcadoo@msu.edu*

been extremely informative for NCFR members. These workshops have covered both content and skill building related to public policy formation, such as how to interact with state legislators through family impact seminars. This multidisciplinary section is comprised of a variety of researchers, educators, and practitioners who share information, work together, and are supportive of each other. The Family Policy Section is perceived as an arena for exchanging ideas, research findings, and teaching techniques. It has become a busy “intersection” where members of other sections converge, perhaps to focus on a particular family policy research question. Section members also help others convert their research into policy papers that can inform policy makers. Those with experience in this area are willing to offer their skills and expertise to members of other sections who may want to become more involved in policy issues. To facilitate the development of beginning scholars interested in family policy, the section also provides some support for a student doing a policy-related internship. Four focus groups are affiliated with this section including Adoption, Rural Families and Communities, Work and Family, and Prevention and Family Support.



The **Family Science Section** provides a forum for discussing and furthering issues of disciplinary and professional identity. The section is also pleased to co-sponsor the Teaching Family Science Conference every year. The Family Science Section provides travel support for the Student/New Professional representative, thus facilitating an emerging leader to become involved in NCFR.

The **Family Therapy Section** was founded to represent both researchers and practitioners who want to be informed by research. Whereas AAMFT is an organization that focuses on professionalism and therapy issues, NCFR provides therapists with research findings and theoretical developments. Journals from both organizations offer important applied studies, theory, and state of the art research. If family therapy is to continue developing as both an area of research and a professional discipline, we need NCFR,

and we especially need the Family Therapy Section. The section provides some monetary support to students for paper/poster presentations of exceptional merit.

The **Feminism and Family Studies Section** is devoted to including feminist perspectives into the academic discourse of Family Studies. The section strives to ensure that the voices of women are heard in the research and practice of our field. Members are also activists and committed to social action aimed at improving the lives of women and those with less power. The section sponsors the Jessie Bernard Awards for students/new professionals; one is for an outstanding proposal and the other is for an outstanding completed paper. Members encourage networking and breaking down barriers between Students/New Professionals and other professionals, and among other imposed categories. The listserv is used to distribute the electronic newsletter and to keep members connected and informed about a variety of time-sensitive topics. The section's focus group, the Gay Bisexual Transgender Straight Alliance, sponsors special sessions related to research, teaching, and advocacy. Their members are currently exploring the “chilly climate” on campuses for lesbian and gay students and faculty. This section also has an active ad hoc committee on Feminist Praxis, which refers to the practice of feminism in our research, teaching, and service activity including policy and intervention. An essential part of praxis is to be aware of who we are as people, and how our emotions and lived experiences are inextricably connected to our work.

The **International Section** provides a unique opportunity to meet, consult, and

collaborate with colleagues who have expert knowledge about a broad range of cultures and countries outside the United States. Some section members are Americans who travel to other continents (e.g., South America, Europe, and Africa) to conduct research, as well as exchange information with other international colleagues. Other members live and work in a variety of countries and generously share their knowledge and skills with NCFR members. A person does not need an extensive background in cross-national studies to join this section; all that is needed is an interest in cultures and a respect for diversity. This section also sponsors the Jan Trost Award to honor accomplishments in cross-cultural research.

The **Religion and Family Life Section** focuses on issues of meaning, values, and a sense of purpose in relationships with intimate others. This section forms connections beyond one's own concerns to those that encompass communities and the broader picture of the interconnectedness of all persons. People who have a practical and/or academic interest in spirituality and how religious issues impact families are welcome. Not only do clergy and other religious leaders join this section, but also professionals who see the salience of spirituality as a buffer for life stress, a factor in healing and recovery, and a necessary quest for human survival. Although religion has often been neglected in scientific investigations, this section encourages the study of religion and spirituality and recognizes the efforts of new professionals for work done on these topics. During section meetings, open sharing occurs and a warm spirit of acceptance is generated. It is customary for this section to plan worship and meditation services during the annual conference, often in collaboration with other sections.

The **Research and Theory Section** provides an opportunity to meet a cross-section of strong researchers from across the country and from varied disciplines, as well as to learn about section-sponsored projects such as the planning of a new edition of the *Sourcebook of Family Theories and Methods*. Members have the opportunity to learn about and to support

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NCFR WANTS TO KNOW!

If you have moved or
plan on moving, please call:
1-888-781-9331 or e-mail:
ncfr3989@ncfr.org
with your new address.

The U.S. Postal Service does not forward publications like the Report or journals, and we want to make sure you receive them.

THANK YOU!



Executive Review

Research that Influences Public Policy

When I'm asked to speak at conferences of the NCFR state-affiliated councils or other NCFR-related meetings, invariably my topic is related to public policy issues. As many of you know, I'm a strong advocate for research-based public policy, and I believe that NCFR must be a major player in public policy discussions at the local, state and national levels. In this column, I will focus on one of NCFR's major organizational goals: "to ensure that public decision-makers have access to knowledge about family issues that helps them to identify the implications of their decisions for family well-being." To achieve this goal, we need more action-oriented research in the family science field.

About two years ago I had a discussion with an NCFR member who had taken a sabbatical leave to do public policy work in Washington, D.C. Our discussion centered on two topics: 1) how to strengthen NCFR's role in shaping public policy issues and 2) how the use of a public health paradigm to frame family well-being issues could help family science researchers to inform decision-makers and shape public policy. Since my professional training is in public health, I was intrigued with the idea of linking public health and family well-being in a way that would generate a public policy framework for family science professionals.

The opportunity to formulate my thoughts into a working document presented itself

last fall. I was asked to present a paper at the March 2002 Families and Health Research Conference, sponsored by the Brigham Young University's Family Studies Center, School of Family Life, and College of Nursing. The paper was entitled "Research that Influences Public Policy: The 'So What?' Factor."

Before I share my ideas, let me present you with one caveat and one bias. The caveat: I'm a "policy wonk" not a "research wonk" – my favorite television channels are C-SPAN and C-SPAN 2. (I'd watch C-SPAN 3, too, but I can't get it in Minneapolis!) The bias: I believe that family researchers through their nonpartisan, multidisciplinary research can and

Executive Report continued on page 7

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 5*

NCFR's two superb journals, the *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Family Relations*. The section supports press releases for JMF articles of cutting-edge significance to the broader public. Much of the expertise that is drawn upon for these press releases comes from section members. A small, section-sponsored committee is also currently working on developing guidelines for the content of empirical research tables. NCFR's two journal editors have requested this advice, with similar interest expressed by editors of other social science journals. This section also gives a monetary award to the student whose presentation proposal for NCFR's Annual Conference is the most highly rated in the review process. Three focus groups are affiliated with this section including Men in Families, Qualitative Family Research Network, and Families and Technology.

NCFR sections are particularly helpful to new members, in general, and especially student members. Since sections more intimately address individual and group needs, members can give their unique voice to issues, solutions, and future endeavors. Sections also provide opportunities to develop a leadership path toward the future of their choice. All sections have

a Student/New Professional Representative as an officer, so student interests and needs can be represented in that section. It should be noted that several sections also provide monetary support for S/NPs. Some sections offer travel funds to the annual conference for the S/NP representatives or provide travel awards for the best proposals/papers written and presented by S/NPs at NCFR's Annual Conference, whereas other sections fund a policy internship or dissertation award. Since funding varies based on the number of section members and other sources of income, you may want to check with your section of interest to see what monetary support it provides.

To illustrate the importance of sections for Students/New Professionals, I think it is best to share the reactions of a S/NP to his involvement with sections and what it has meant to him. Bill Rose, who is currently an Assistant Professor at Towson University, commented that he was completely overwhelmed when he first came to NCFR as a graduate student. The enormity of the conference made him feel disengaged and aimless. A few kind people, both S/NPs and more seasoned professionals, encouraged him to find a section

that appealed to him and get involved. He became involved with three sections and "fell in love" with NCFR. He was doing meaningful projects, meeting prominent and informative scholars and leaders in the field, and most importantly found direction and purpose. He perceived that at the section level, there is so much that S/NPs can do and contribute. Joining sections was an effective way to gain name recognition and make contacts that could lead to future positions, further study, research experiences, training, and of course, the "fun" that NCFR can really offer.

Since sections promote the professional development and socialization of researchers, educators, and practitioners, it is a good place for students, new professionals, and new members to communicate with colleagues of similar interests. Sections provide wonderful opportunities for networking and becoming involved in NCFR. A new professional recently commented that she perceived NCFR as an organization "with a heart" and I believe that section involvement is the key to establishing these feelings of connectedness, commitment, and collegiality.

*Carol Anderson Darling, Ph.D., CFLE
NCFR President
E-mail: cdarling@mailers.fsu.edu*

have a significant impact on society's family related policies and those leaders who shape family policy.

In her article "Has Family Policy Come of Age? A Decade Review of the State of U.S. Family Policy in the 1990s," Karen Bogenschneider notes that at the beginning of the 90s, "family policy research was described as a concept without consistent definition, a perspective lacking solid rationale, a field in need of legitimization, and a rhetoric in search of grounding from theory and practice." Bogenschneider concludes "family policy came of age in the 1990s, dispelling doomsayers who predicted a short life expectancy, yet it has not matured into a full-fledged adult with a stature commensurate to that of economic or environmental policy."

Although she doesn't specifically recommend that family researchers use a public health framework, she does recommend the use of "epidemiological methods that provide data more pertinent to policy makers, such as the prevalence of a problem, its risk to the population, and the potential cost-savings of policy responses." I'm an old field epidemiologist who once worked with the Communicable Disease Center, so this was music to my ears.

Now just what is the public health approach and what is its relevance to family well-being? According to Dr. David Satcher, our most recent and former U.S. Surgeon General, the public health model is characterized by concern for the health of a population in its entirety and awareness of the linkage between health and the physical and psychosocial environment. Public health focuses not only on traditional areas of diagnosis, treatment, and etiology, but also on *epidemiological* surveillance of the health of the population at large, health promotion, disease prevention, and access to and evaluation of services. Also consistent with the public health approach is a "call to action."

Dr. Satcher was very clear that before issuing a call to action, researchers needed to document and articulate the "scientific evidence from a wide-ranging body of empirical research." But then, once the evidence was established, he issued a call to action. This call to action is essential. It's not enough for public health researchers

to discover the source of the problem; they must also take steps to reduce the risk to the population.

In the same way, family researchers must also go beyond discovery and take the next step—they must answer the question "So what?" The answer to that question will lead to action-based strategies – in other words, a call to action!

If, for example, family researchers have solid evidence that certain programs reduce the likelihood of domestic abuse, I believe that they should bring this information to the attention of decision-makers and call for policies that promote these programs.

Why is this so important? From my personal experience as a lobbyist in Oregon and Washington, D.C., I have learned that research often drives public policy. By supplying nonpartisan, empirical research to policymakers, we can help ensure that policies are based on something more solid than ideology or supposed "common sense."

Recognizing that the path of the researcher is long and sometimes treacherous, one must nevertheless journey from the initial research question and grant application to

the publication of results. Along the way, it's easy to forget that results could influence public policy and ultimately affect the everyday lives of families. I believe, however, that if one chooses to spend one's professional life doing research about families and how they function, one has done so because it is an important thing to do. And I agree! As executive director of NCFR, I believe that your work as family researchers is vital to the future of the nation's families.

At the same time, I don't expect you to become "policy wonks." (That's my job!) But I do believe that given the importance of your work, you must take the next step and ask "So what?" If you don't, then your research findings will possibly remain between the covers of an academic journal on a library shelf. And that, I believe, would be tragic.

I'll continue this discussion in the September issue of *Report*. In my next column, I'll focus on a group of NCFR researchers who have created a "community epidemiology surveillance network" and formulated a call to action.

Michael L. Benjamin, M.P.H.
NCFR Executive Director
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NCFR ON THE WEB

www.ncfr.org



Accessing NCFR Online Journals

To access NCFR online journals, members will need to enter a *Username* and *Password*.

For the *Username*: enter your Membership ID number. This number is listed on your member ID card as well as the journal and **Report** mailing labels.

For the *Password*: enter your last name in capital letters as it is listed on your member ID card and the mailing labels.

Accessing NCFR Members Area

To access the NCFR website "Members Area" will require you to have a *Username* and *Password*.

The first time you enter NCFR's "Member Area" you will be required to setup a login using your Member ID number and zip code. This login process will generate your *Username*.

Thereafter, the *Username* will be the e-mail address that you have submitted to NCFR.

The *Password* will be whatever you desire.

That's it! If you have problems logging in, please contact John Pepper at pepper@ncfr.org!



Family Policy



Report From Washington

The United Nations General Assembly had a Special Session on Children in New York in May. A major issue was the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which the **United States has not ratified**. This makes the United States one of the special target countries because of its importance in funding international children's programs necessary for implementing whatever is decided.

At the end of March I attended a meeting in Washington to alert the Washington NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) working for children's rights about what was going on in New York and to discuss what local NGOs could do to help.

The CRC, consisting of 54 articles, was approved by the General Assembly in November 1989. A convention is a treaty among states (i.e. countries), with obligations that are binding on states that ratify it. Marilyn Bensman, NCFR's representative to the UN, has written that the CRC promotes children's welfare as an issue of justice rather than charity, thus applying the idea of human rights to children. It states that children have a right to have a say in what affects their lives. This is a problem for conservative parents.

The points the U.S. considers controversial are reproductive health and the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), especially the age at which children are declared to be an adult and no longer

under the control of parents. In Part I of the Convention, a child is defined as every human being below the age of 18 unless majority is specified as starting earlier under the law applicable to that child.

The problem for the U.S. is that determining the age a child becomes an adult is the responsibility of our individual states, with provisions that vary tremendously from state to state. In this regard, a surprising news item appeared in the Washington Post on March 27th. The article reported that the New Hampshire House of Representatives had passed a bill reversing a 1996 law and raising to 18 the age under which teenagers who commit crimes are automatically prosecuted as adults. Governor Jeanne Shaheen has said she will sign the bill if it clears the legislature. This will be the first state to change the age upward and now offenders under 18 would be assigned to juvenile court jurisdiction.

The trend over the last few years has been to make the age for adult prosecution, and potential incarceration younger and younger. Connecticut, New York and North Carolina all moved the age to be tried as an adult to age 16, ten states set the age at 17, while the rest, including Washington D.C., retained 18 as the age of adulthood. The change in New Hampshire apparently came about as a result of pressure from social workers and judges who found that young people of 17 were not able to access the social services, training, and supports they needed and therefore many were becoming homeless and ultimately going back into the criminal justice system.

A DEVELOPMENTAL ANALYSIS

In a SRCF Social Policy Report entitled "Adolescents as Adults in Court, A Developmental Perspective on the Transfer of Juveniles to Criminal Court," Steinberg and Cauffman report that approximately 200,000 individuals under the age of 18 are tried in criminal courts annually in the United States. They ask: are juveniles competent to stand trial as defendants; are

juveniles so immature that they are less blameworthy than adults; and, are juveniles more amenable to treatment than adults and therefore poorly served by adult punishment?

Using a developmental point of view, their final conclusion is that young offenders between the ages of 13 and 18 should be thought of in three categories: juveniles who should not be tried in adult courts, adults who should, and a broad group who may or may not be developmentally appropriate for adult treatment depending on individual characteristics.

The complex analysis of this paper deals with the potential success of rehabilitative measures. It does not deal with the potentially very negative effect of an adult prison experience now mandated in many states by the "three strikes" laws. Among these may be weakened family ties and in some states losing status such as being a voting citizen. A person with a prison record is less likely to find good employment or to be considered good marriage material and is, therefore, more likely to turn to crime again.

We can hope that at some time the U.S. ratifies the CRC and joins other nations in protecting the rights of children. It may be years before this happens but we can hope there is no backsliding. I applaud SRCF and the Mac Arthur Foundation who funded it, for providing us with this analysis, which gives us a developmental basis for policy formation, and applaud New Hampshire for facing the reality of youth in the justice system. Getting tough on youth crime may not be the way to make our neighborhoods safer or marriages more likely, both Administration goals.

You can read the SRCF Social Policy Report: <http://www.srcf.org.spr.htm>; Also, Urban Institute Program on Youth Justice: email: JPC@ui.urban.org

Margaret Feldman, Ph.D.
NCFR Policy Representative
E-mail: mefeldman@aol.com

CORRECTION

On page F2 of the March 2002 Family Focus, the address for the Military Family Resource Center should be:

Crystal Square 4, Suite 302, Room 309
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202-3424
703-602-4964

E-mail: mfrcrequest@calib.com
Web site: <http://mfrc.calib.com>

NCFR apologizes for the error.



CFLE Directions



NCFR to Produce Multimedia Presentation on CFLE and Family Life Education

Laura Eiklenborg, NCFR Project Manager, oversees the NCFR Academic Program Review. In addition to working with schools applying for program approval and with the Academic Program Review Committee to review program applications, she has implemented some great strategies to facilitate understanding and awareness of the program and increase the number of graduates seeking certification through the Abbreviated process.

She recently developed a PowerPoint presentation, "CFLE Certification – Is it For Me?" available on CD, which explains the CFLE designation and the abbreviated application process. A copy was distributed to all NCFR approved programs for use in the classroom. The response has been excellent.

One of the CFLE department's main goals is to increase awareness of the CFLE designation and family life education as a profession. The success of the abbreviated program CD made me realize that a similar presentation would be helpful in explaining family life education to the larger public. The Hiring? Brochure has been a successful tool used by CFLEs to help explain the field to employers, but it is limited in its scope. A multi-media presentation, provided on CD, could include testimonials from CFLEs, insights from employers, and general information on the designation and application process, and at a cost equivalent to mailing CFLE brochures to rented mailing lists, which has had limited success.

Over the years we have experimented with different marketing strategies from display advertising, direct mail marketing, conference exhibits and more. By far the most effective method is the word of mouth promotion that comes from CFLEs telling colleagues about the program. We are hopeful that a brief, professionally-developed CD, similar to the CD that was

distributed at the NCFR conference last November, will help us get the word out about the CFLE program and the value of hiring someone with a solid foundation in family and life span development. A free copy would be sent to all current CFLEs and all NCFR-approved programs and to anyone else interested in viewing it. We hope to have this marketing tool available for distribution at the NCFR conference in Houston, if not sooner!

We will also be promoting NCFR and the CFLE program at a number of conferences in 2002. We displayed at the **University of North Texas Center for Parent Education** conference in February. Staff members Lynda Bessey and John Pepper represented NCFR at the **American Counseling Association** meeting in March. I recently exhibited at the **Family Support America** conference in Chicago and at the **California Council on Family Relations** conference. We exhibited at the **American Association for Christian Counselors' Marriage** regional conference and at the **International Fatherhood** conference in May. In September we'll exhibit at **AACC's Families** regional

conference. As we have done for the past five years, NCFR will exhibit at the **Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education (CMFCE)** "Smart Marriages, Happy Families" conference in Washington DC in July. The **Family, Career and Community Leaders of America** (formerly Future Homemakers of America) will be in Minneapolis in July so we plan to exhibit there as well. NCFR will also be among those exhibiting at the **American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)** conference in Dallas and at the **American Sociological Association** and the **American Psychological Association** conferences, both in Chicago in August. And last, but not least, we are also scheduled to exhibit at the **National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS)** conference in Kansas City, Missouri in October. These conferences involve considerable expense and staff time but we have found that they are very effective in increasing awareness of, (and membership in) NCFR and the CFLE program! If you plan to attend any of these conferences, please stop by the NCFR

CFLE Directions continued on page 10

CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

Following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated since January 15, 2002. (* - Provisional)

California Sheila Bost	Michigan Deborah Ehle * Lea Etts *	New York Courtney Hills * Oregon Shelley Hanson *	Texas Dianne Costa * Carol Jackson Cynthia Small Ed Stasney
Florida Miriam Morera Cynthia Wilson *	Elizabeth Jarzambek * Brenda Servoss * Linda Snare * Connie Jo Sperry *	South Carolina Diane Merrick	Utah Christopher Bouwhuis * Sean Morris Kari Roberts * Suzanne Turley *
Kansas Amy Mauk * Ginny Stohs *	Nebraska Susan Meyerle	Tennessee Edward Nelson Lucretia Sanders	



Annual Conference



NCFR Receives APA Sponsor Approval Status!

NCFR recently received word that it has been granted APA Sponsor Approval! We are excited about the opportunities that this opens to attendees of the conference. Because NCFR is considered a secondary organization, there are times when family professionals have found it necessary to make choices and attend another association's conference (ASA, APA, AAMFT, etc.) so that they could receive continuing education credits that would be valid for

renewing their membership or licensure. Sometimes NCFR attendance did not count toward continuing education. By going to the next step of becoming an approved sponsor of some of the primary organizations, it opens up doors for us.

What does this mean for Conference attendees?

- Most state licensing boards accept APA Provider conference participation. Now many psychologists and therapists needing continuing education can get valuable

CE credits when they attend NCFR-sponsored conferences.

- The following statement will appear in all of NCFR brochures: *The National Council on Family Relations is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing professional education for psychologists. NCFR maintains responsibility for the program.*

Is NCFR an Approved Provider from Other Organizations?

NCFR is an approved provider for the **National Board for Certified Counselors**, **George Mason University**, and the **Employee Assistance Professionals Association**. We are in the process of applying as a provider for the **National Association of Social Workers**.

Background of the APA Continuing Professional Education Sponsor Approval System (CACE S)

The American Psychological Association (APA) is the largest and most prestigious psychological organization in the United States. APA's purpose is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting human welfare.

As set forth in their bylaws, APA recognizes that psychologists must continue their educational and professional development beyond the level of graduate training. Because the knowledge and skills are ongoing, it is necessary to have a means of updating them through the process of continuing professional education (CPE). The following definition of continuing professional education was developed by the APA Committee for the Approval of CE Sponsors and other governance groups within APA: *Continuing Professional Education in psychology consists of planned educational activities intended to further education and training of psychologists for the enhancement of psychological practice, education, administration, and research.*

In most states, continuing education is necessary for renewal of licensure for family professionals such as psychologists

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CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 10*

exhibit and say hello. If you have suggestions for other conferences you think would be appropriate for NCFR, contact me at Dawn@ncfr.org or Lynda Bessey at lbessey@ncfr.org.

Tips for Families section of the NCFR website to feature CFLEs

The *Tips for Families* section of the NCFR website has proven to be one of the most-visited sections of the website. We want to enhance this feature by providing even more tips and suggestions for healthy family life. We want to tap the many

knowledgeable family professionals among our Certified Family Life Educators. This will be a great opportunity to provide quality information while providing exposure to qualified CFLEs from around the world. CFLEs will be contacted soon to determine their interest in providing information for the Tips for Families website feature.

Don't forget! September 5, 2002 is the next CFLE submission deadline.

*Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE
NCFR Certification Director
E-Mail: dawn@ncfr.org*

ON THE NET

Access NCFR's website at: www.ncfr.org

To reach NCFR headquarters: **John Pepper**
ncfr3989@ncfr.org pepper@ncfr.org

To reach specific staff members: **Jeanne Ryberg**
jryberg@ncfr.org

Michael L. Benjamin
mbenjamin@ncfr.org

Lynda Bessey
lbessey@ncfr.org

Dawn Cassidy
dawn@ncfr.org

Nikki Cunningham
nikki@ncfr.org

Laura Eiklenborg
laura@ncfr.org

Judy Schutz
ncfr3989@ncfr.org

Sasha Smith
sasha@ncfr.org

Cindy Winter
wintersc@ncfr.org

To reach NCFR President
Carol Darling:
cdarling@mailier.fsu.edu

2002 CONFERENCE

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and therapists. To meet this need, APA created a **Sponsor Approval System** to facilitate psychologists' access to quality CE programs that have come under careful review and subscribe to APA criteria. The Sponsor Approval System:

- Encourages CE among psychologists;
- Encourages the development of high-quality CE programs;
- Offers psychologists access to CE programs offered by APA-approved sponsors;
- Provides technical assistance and guidance to organizations in the development or improvement of existing CE programs;
- Encourages the development of a network of CE sponsors for the overall enhancement of CE programs available nationwide to psychologists.

The APA Committee for the Approval of Continuing Professional Education Sponsors (CACES) reviews and approves organizations (e.g., universities, private clinics, professional associations, specialty societies, consulting firms, etc.) that offer continuing professional education programs for psychologists. Sponsor Approval means that NCFR is approved as an organization. The system is not designed to approve the individual offerings of sponsors. Approved sponsors such as NCFR have the responsibility for designing and scheduling programs in compliance with the CACES criteria.

CACES reviews and rules on applications for approval. NCFR sent in its extensive application form in January. CACES meets twice a year, shortly after the deadlines for receipt of applications. The committee carefully reviews applicants and monitors approved sponsors, following the guidelines as established in the APA Approval of Sponsors of Continuing Professional Education: Criteria and Procedures Manual. The Committee reports to the Board of Educational Affairs and submits annual reports of its activities.

An APA-approved sponsor must address the importance of psychologists' access to resources that:

- May improve their competence in professionally relevant ways;
- Make possible the acquisition of new skills and knowledge required to maintain competence;

Joining Forces at the 2002 Annual Conference

At the 2002 NCFR Annual Conference, researchers and practitioners will join forces as they discuss families over the life course.

PLENARY PANELS

Is strengthening marriage to reduce the divorce rate a workable strategy for policy and intervention?

Thursday, November 21, 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Panelists: **Arlene Skolnick**, New York University, is a researcher whose books and articles have focused on such topics as the impact of social and economic change on married and family life and individual development, family policy and family law. She is a consultant to the Families and

Work Institute. **William Doherty**, University of Minnesota, is the Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program and Professor of Family Social Science. He is the author of books for psychotherapists as well as lay readers and recently published *Take Back Your Marriage: Sticking Together in a World that Pulls Us Apart*. **Laura Sanchez**, Bowling Green State University, studies changes in family formation, the meaning of marriage, and family law reform. She is the co-investigator of

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- Strengthen the habits of critical inquiry and balanced judgment that denote the professional and scientific person;
- Acknowledge and recognize their specific CE needs.

What steps has NCFR taken to insure that APA Standards will be followed?

- In filling out the application for APA, NCFR placed some additional controls in place to ensure that appropriate sessions for psychologists are scheduled.
- NCFR has formed a **CE Review Committee** consisting of the **Conference Coordinator** Cindy Winter, **Certification Director** Dawn Cassidy, and an additional staff member. The Conference Coordinator chairs this committee that has the responsibility for reviewing NCFR's internal CE process, and the acquisition of and adherence to other CE protocols. The CE Review Committee is one of NCFR's quality assurance committees that report to the Executive Director.
- All presenters whose proposals have been accepted will be sent the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists*. All authors must sign the following statement "I hereby agree to comply with the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists," when they return the acceptance letter with their conference registration to NCFR by June 25.
- Presenters must submit a list of 3 educational goals for their proposals.
- There are psychologists on the program committee, and others have been

appointed to review the program to make sure that the needs of psychologists are met, and if there are deficiencies, additional sessions will be planned to meet these needs.

How Can I Apply for Receiving APA Continuing Education Credits?

- There is a space on the Conference registration forms (printed and online) where you can sign up for continuing education. There is a processing fee of \$15.
- At the conference you will be given an evaluation form, which must be completely filled it.
- For APA approval you must have the session monitor sign the form as you enter and exit the room.
- Complete the application form. NCFR will send all your documentation to you.
- NCFR is constantly striving to make its conferences more relevant for you. We feel that becoming an approved sponsor from APA, NBCC, and other primary organizations is a great step. If you have never come to an NCFR conference before, we encourage you to come this year. You will receive a top-quality educational experience. Those who keep returning to NCFR conferences state that they feel welcome at NCFR, and appreciate the added bonus of networking with some of the top professionals in the family field!

Register today!

Cindy Winter, CMP, Conference Coordinator
E-mail: wintersc@ncfr.org

the National Science Foundation study of covenant marriage in Louisiana. **Howard Markman**, University of Denver, is the co-developer of the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) and the author of articles and books on the effects of destructive conflict and relationship distress on mental health. Presider: **Paul R. Amato**, Pennsylvania State University.

The goal for the session is to increase understanding of the following issues: 1. Does premarital education work? 2. Does marriage counseling work? 3. Does covenant marriage work? 4. Can the divorce rate be lowered by strengthening marriage? 5. Should government be involved in strengthening marriage? 6. Are these types of interventions more or less successful than other interventions such as programs intended to increase the standard of living among at-risk populations?

How can we foster resiliency in children and adolescents in low-income families?

Friday, November 22, 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Panelists: **Kristin Moore**, Child Trends, is the President and Senior Scholar of Child Trends and the author of articles, books, and congressional testimony on adolescent parenthood, positive child development, the effects of family structure on children, and the impact of public policies on children. **Deborah Jacobvitz**, University of Texas, is the author of research articles on the origins and development of parent-child attachment and the link between attachment and child distress, self-esteem, peer relationships, mental health, and other factors. **Velma McBride Murry**, University of Georgia, is the author of research articles on two related topics: how external stressors, including racism, affect African American families, and family interventions that protect against risky adolescent behavior. **Douglas Coatsworth**, Pennsylvania State University, is the author of articles focused on the evaluation of family based intervention programs that prevent problem behavior and promote well-being in families and adolescents in both resource rich and resource poor environments. Presider: **Cheryl Buehler**, University of Tennessee.

The goal for the session is to increase understanding of interventions which are most effective in increasing resilience given the limited resources policy makers are willing to invest in our youth. What aspects of child cognitive and social development can be altered in a way that results in a greater ability to manage the adversity and constraints associated with limited family income? How do family based interventions differ

from others? Do the same issues apply to childhood and adolescence? Do effective methods for fostering resilience differ by race and ethnicity?

Is parent and child well-being getting better or worse under welfare reform?

Saturday, November 23, 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Panelists: **Greg Duncan**, Northwestern University/University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research, is the author of books and articles focused on how economic conditions in families and neighborhoods affect child development and on how welfare reform affects families and children. **Greg Acs**, The Urban Institute, conducts evaluation studies of how welfare reform affects children's living arrangements and how these arrangements in turn affect child well-being, the economic status and well-being of people who have left welfare, and work incentives in welfare programs. **Karen Secombe**, Portland State University, is the Director of the Center for Public Health Studies. Her studies include how poverty affects health and the effect of welfare reform on access to health care among families leaving welfare. **Theodora Ooms**, Center for Law and Social Policy, is the Director of Couples and Marriage Policy Resource Center and has authored presentations to Capitol Hill policy analysts, and publications focused on low income families, teen pregnancy, unwed fathers, family-school links, and marriage policy. Presider: **Pamela A. Monroe**, Louisiana State University.

The goal of the session is to increase understanding of the following questions. Which aspects of welfare reform have led to improvements in the well-being of parents and children? To decrements? Have welfare reform pro-marriage policies been effective? What dimensions of well-being have been most effected (physical and mental health, quality of family relations, achievement and educational attainment)? What aspects of welfare reform have been successful? Had no effect? Created problems? What are the tradeoffs as the program currently exists? How do economic cycles (recession) affect the effectiveness of welfare reform? How should the program be modified to increase its effectiveness?

SPECIAL SESSIONS

What are future prospects for increasing father involvement in child rearing and household activities?

Thursday, November 21, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Panelists: **Sara McLanahan**, Princeton University, is the Director at Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child

Well-being and principle investigator for the Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study. Her publications focus on father involvement, welfare reform, non-resident fathers, and poverty. **James Levine**, Family Work Institute, is the Director at the Fatherhood Project and the creator of services for parents and children. He is the author of *New Expectations: Community Strategies for Responsible Fatherhood and Working Fathers: New Strategies for Balancing Work and Family*. **Scott Coltrane**, University of California-Riverside, is the author of *Family Man: Fatherhood, Housework, and Gender Equity*. He is also the principle investigator of study on the impact of economic stress and the meaning of fatherhood and stepfatherhood in Mexican American and European American families. **William Allen**, Mental Health Consulting, has a clinical practice serving individuals, families, and couple and consultant to schools and community agencies, and is the author of articles on African American fathering and marriage. Presider: **Greer Litton Fox**, University of Tennessee.

The goal for the session is to increase understanding of the factors that have led to recent modest increases in father involvement and whether these trends are likely to continue. Father involvement increases vary by social class, race, and cohort. What are the reasons for these differences and are they converging? How successful are programs designed to enhance father involvement? Do the programs that strengthen the power of the state (e.g., garnish non-custodial father's wages) lead to fathers spending less time with the children?

What are successful approaches to university-community collaborations to enhance child and parent well-being?

Friday, November 21, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Panelists: **Karen Bierman**, Pennsylvania State University, is the Director of Child, Youth, and Families Consortium. She is the principle investigator of a multi-site intervention (Fast Track) designed to prevent conduct disorders and other adolescent problems among high risk children at school entrance. **Richard Spoth**, Iowa State University, directs Project Family, which entails prevention program, needs assessments, motivational factor influencing program participation, program efficacy, culturally competent programming, and program diffusion. **Martha Erickson**, University of Minnesota, developed STEEP (Steps Toward Effective, Enjoyable Parenting), a prevention intervention for parents and infants that

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Section News



International Section

I'd like to thank the student/professional colleagues who submitted and/or reviewed proposals for the 2002 annual program. The submissions represented a diverse range of cultures/countries, phases of the lifespan, and relational characteristics. By the time you read this, I expect the program will be finalized for the 2002 conference; I look forward to sharing information about conference highlights in future Report columns. If you are interested in international perspectives on family composition/dynamics, you are welcome to join this section; you do not need an expertise in international studies or to conduct cross-national research to be a section member.

In addition to program planning, the International Section has been active in other ways. As you might have seen on the listserv, Stephan Wilson has placed the call for nominations for the Jan Trost

Research Award. This award was established to honor a colleague's contributions to cross-national/cultural family studies. I hope that some of you have made nominations for this award, and look forward to announcing the recipient at a later date.

We are also making an effort to establish two committees. First, the International Student/New Professional Committee will be created to consider and recommend changes to address the needs of S/NP members. This committee is formulated in part as a response to the suggestions and queries made at the 2001 Business Meeting (e.g., contact persons for first-time conference attendees, translated materials for students for whom English is not the first language).

Second, a fundraising committee will be created to establish and maintain a plan for generating section funds. The officers

and section members successfully conducted a silent auction in 2001 and I'm in the process of seeking permission to conduct an auction again in 2002. The committee would be responsible for planning and managing the auction as well as planning a fundraiser for 2003. Everyone can contribute to the silent auction without joining the committee; simply keep your eyes open for an item that you'd like to bring/send to Houston for the conference in November.

If you have any comments or questions about these specific committees or more general aspects of the International Section, please contact me at the email address listed below. Thank you for your interest and support for the section.

Jacki Fitzpatrick
Chair, International Section
E-mail: jfitzpatrick@hs.ttu.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS

JOURNAL OF POVERTY: INNOVATIONS ON SOCIAL, POLITICAL & ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES

The Journal of Poverty is a refereed journal designed to provide an outlet for discourse on poverty and inequality. The editorial board welcomes manuscripts that sensitize social scientists and practitioners to the varied forms and patterns of inequalities, new developments in cultural diversity, and interventions promoting equality and social justice.

Articles guided by conceptual analyses involving quantitative and qualitative methods are encouraged. The intent is to produce and disseminate information on poverty and social, political, and economic inequalities and to offer a means by which nontraditional strategies for change might be considered. Manuscripts should increase knowledge of oppressive forces, such as racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia, which contribute to the maintenance of poverty and inequality and suggest methods of change leading towards their eradication. Earlier articles have investigated a wide range of topics —

“Employment Outcomes of White and Black Welfare Recipients,” “Children’s Perceptions of Class Differences,” “Black-White Differences in Fatalism and Joblessness,” “Welfare Clients and Front-line Workers View Policy Reforms,” “Poor Women and Prostitution.”

Submissions should reflect the mission of the Journal. Authors should submit four copies of the manuscript. Please include an abstract of no more than 100 words. References and format should follow APA style. Manuscripts will be peer reviewed by at least three referees and returned with comments.

Manuscripts should be sent to The Editors, Journal of Poverty, P.O. Box 3613, Columbus, OH 43210-3613. Phone: 614-292-7181. Fax: 614-292-6940. Email: kilty.1@osu.edu. Web site: <http://www.journalofpoverty.org/>

NOW AVAILABLE!

NCFR Discussion Listservs

Enrollment is open to all NCFR members.

NCFR Member Listserv

EducationEnrichment@cfapress.org

Ethnic Minorities website:
www.asn.csus.edu/em-ncfr

FamilyHealth@cfapress.org

FamilyPolicy@cfapress.org

FamilyScience@cfapress.org

FamilyTherapy@cfapress.org

FeminismFamilyStudies@cfapress.org

International@cfapress.org

ReligionFamilyLife@cfapress.org

ResearchTheory@cfapress.org

Student@cfapress.org

(Students/New Professionals)

To enroll, send your name, e-mail address, and the listserv(s) you wish to join to: John Pepper at 763-781-9331, ext. 16; E-mail: pepper@ncfr.org.

To sign up for the **Ethnic Minorities Section** listserv, go directly to its website.



Affiliate Connection

Acknowledging the Outstanding Grassroots Efforts of Our Affiliates

The National Council on Family Relations' Affiliate Councils offer wonderful opportunities for members to contribute to the well-being of families at local, state and regional levels. Through organizing professional conferences and other educational programs, conducting research on family issues and translating the findings into

meaningful practice, informing legislators on family matters and helping to shape family policies, and socializing our students into the profession, affiliate councils positively impact their communities.

In an effort to acknowledge and support the wonderful work taking place within our affiliates, the Association of Councils

provides three special programs. First, small grants from the AOC President's Fund are available to active affiliates that have an idea for a promising and innovative project. Affiliates are eligible to secure up to \$250 for such things as educational meetings, special service activities, or membership drives. This money is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so affiliates are encouraged to think of important activities for which they would like support and to apply.

In an effort to promote continuing and strong leadership of our affiliates, the Association of Councils also sponsors up to five Meritorious Service Awards each year to deserving candidates who have contributed to the viability of our affiliate councils. To be eligible, nominees must have: 1) three or more years of continuous involvement in their local/regional affiliate; 2) served at least one term as a local/regional board member or state officer, 3) strengthened contact and participation in NCFR, and 4) (for university faculty) served as mentor of a student in a research project which was presented at a state or regional conference or assisted in forming and/or sponsoring the student chapter at his/her university OR (for non-university members) provided a significant leadership role in community service or public policy on behalf of the affiliate. The Association of Councils' President must receive nominating materials by September 15, 2002. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged.

Finally, given our desire to promote student development and involvement in the affiliate councils, the AOC offers one Outstanding Student Paper Award each year. The winner receives \$500 and is expected to present the paper at the NCFR Annual Conference in November. Each active state or regional affiliate may nominate one student per year. Papers are evaluated using the following criteria: uniqueness of research question; the degree to which the findings contribute to the field; clarity of writing; solid use of theory; comprehensive literature review;

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JOINING FORCES *continued from page 12*

focuses on parent-child attachment, child abuse prevention, and community-based approaches to strengthening families.

Stephen Small, University of Wisconsin, is the Family Relations Specialist for Cooperative Extension. He organized Parenting Wisdom Project, a participatory research program that helps local parents gather, examine, and use knowledge about effective parenting within their local community, and testifies for the U.S. Senate and Wisconsin Legislature. **Prisler:**

Alexis Walker, Oregon State University.

The goal of the session is to provide information on three successful family programs that entail extensive university-community collaboration (Pennsylvania, Iowa State, Minnesota). Why do they work? What were the challenges the programs faced early in their development and currently? How did they build in long term stability and support? What are the common and unique aspects of the three programs? What do these experiences tell us about the best practices for current and future programs?

RESEARCH UPDATES FOR PRACTITIONERS

Immigration and the Family

Thursday, November 21, 4:15 - 5:45 p.m.

Speakers: **Patrick Leung**, Graduate School of Social Work at University of Houston. **Nester Rodriguez**, University of Houston Sociology Department.

Jacqueline Hagan, University of Houston Sociology Department. **Maria Jimenez**, American Friends Service Committee Immigration and Law Enforcement Monitoring Project. **Prisler:** **Francisco A. Villarruel**, Michigan State University.

The goal of the session is to increase people's understanding on such issues as: How do the

economic, legal, educational, social, and other challenges immigrant families face affect family relationships, child development, and overall well-being? Do the high expectations, drive and talent that the majority of immigrant families bring to the U.S. make them more resilient to the challenges they face or are the problems too severe (or the policies too weak) to take advantage of these strengths? What are the policies and programs that erode or enhance successful adaptation to U.S. society?

Beyond Sentimentality: The History and Future of Childhood

Friday, November 22, 4:15 - 5:45 p.m.

Speaker: **Steven Mintz**, Department of History, University of Houston, is the leading authority on the history of the American Family. He is the author of *Domestic Revolutions: A Social History of American Family Life*, a book that has been widely used by social scientists in their family courses.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION

Balancing Professional Development and Family Commitment

Saturday, November 23, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Panel Members: **Leigh Leslie**, Organizer, **Prisler**, and Discussant, University of Maryland. **Mark Fine**, University of Missouri. **Alan Hawkins**, Brigham Young University. **Heather Helms-Erickson**, University of North Carolina. **Tammy Henderson**, Virginia Tech University. **Ramona Oswald**, University of Illinois.

Alan Booth, 2002 Program Chair
E-mail: axb24@psu.edu

Texas Council on Family Relations

Over ninety participants gathered in Arlington, Texas, for the 2002 TCFR Annual Conference to hear Dr. H. Wallace Goddard's keynote address "New Discoveries in a Post Self Esteem Era." Twenty-five students from Louisiana Tech University, Texas Tech University, Texas Woman's University, University of North Texas, Tarleton State University and Stephen F. Austin joined 57 family professionals at 15 concurrent sessions. Dr. Ben Silliman from North Carolina covered issues of working with youth at risk at three of these sessions. Exhibitors and poster sessions rounded out the conference. NCFR was well represented by Michael Benjamin and Cindy Winter who gave presentations to the board and to the conference on the upcoming 2002 NCFR Annual Conference in Houston. Dr. Armintia Jacobson was named the 2002 Moore-Bowman Award winner; State Senator Michael Moncrief was named the 2002 TCFR Meritorious Award winner. The student award winners were Susan Eitler, a graduate student from Texas Woman's University, and Brandt Gardner, a doctoral student from Texas Tech University.

The 2002-2003 TCFR Board is led by Dr. Richard Sale from Tarleton State University and includes Dr. Joann Englebrecht from Texas Woman's University; Dr. Dave Sager from Christ's Haven for Children; Dr. Steve Green from Texas Cooperative Extension; Rebecca Edwards from University of North Texas; Debra Cashion, a family consultant, Karen Tellman from Texas Cooperative Extension; Steve Wages from Abilene Christian University; Dr. Glen Jennings from Texas Woman's University; Dr. Linda Cash from Lubbock Christian University; Dr. Mary Bold from Texas Woman's University; Cleo Rodriquez, Executive Director of Texas Head Start; Monte Wainscott from Texas Woman's University; Nataline Mohrmann from University of North Texas; Chaplain (Major) Lance Sneath from Ft. Hood; Dr. Daune Dowd from Louisiana Tech; and Dr. Britton Wood.

Richard Sale, 2002 President
E-mail: sale@tarleton.edu

Linda Ladd, 2001 President
E-mail: l-ladd@tamu.edu

Congratulations to the New Ohio Council Board Members

A new slate of officers and board members for the Ohio Council, representing most of the major universities in Ohio, has recently been elected. **Ted Futris, CFLE**, of Ohio State University is the new President who is succeeding the past president, **Ann Smith** of Ohio State University Extension. **Gregory Janson, CFLE** of Ohio University will serve as President-Elect/Program Chairperson, and **Maureen Blankemeyer, CFLE**, of Kent State University is the new Secretary/Treasurer. The

ACKNOWLEDGING

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sound methodology; and application for practitioners and/or the likelihood of spurring future research. Applications are due to our Student/New Professional Representative, Donald Gregory, 7300 Reinhart College Circle, Waleska, GA 30183 by July 1, 2002.

Additional information on each of these grants or awards is available on the Association of Councils page of the NCFR website and in the Association of Councils Handbook. I hope that we receive a flurry of interest in each of these programs.

Have a great summer.

Raeann R. Hamon, Ph.D., CFLE
President, Association of Councils
E-mail: rhamon@messiah.edu

Board of Directors includes **Kimberly Gordon-Rouse** (Ohio State University), **Jean Gerard, CFLE**, (Bowling Green State University), and **Nancy Miller** (University of Akron). The board looks forward to meeting the needs of their fellow Ohioan NCFR and affiliate members. For information on how to become more involved contact Ted Futris (futris.1@osu.edu or 614-688-4169).

Ted Futris, CFLE
President, Ohio Council
E-mail: futris.1@osu.edu

Northwest Council

The Northwest Council would like to invite all members of NCFR to our Biennial Conference June 19-21, 2002, being held in Vancouver, BC on the University of British Columbia campus. Wednesday night we will gather for an informal light dinner and gathering time. Thursday will begin with a presentation by Phyllis Johnson on "Building a New Life in Canada," and continue with presentations throughout the day. That evening we will share a gourmet dinner at Shaughnessy's in the Van Dusen Gardens. Friday morning we will have an exciting presentation by Safeteen on their program which endeavors to teach adolescents how to stay safe in romantic relationships (avoiding violence) and in other situations where harassment might arise. After a business meeting we will adjourn for the day so people can enjoy the sights in Vancouver. The conference registration fee is \$75 and includes all meals from Wednesday evening through Friday breakfast. If you would like more information about the conference, or would like to register for the conference, please contact Suzanne Smith at smithsu@vancouver.wsu.edu or call her at (360) 546-9714. We hope to see you there!

Suzanne Smith
President, Northwest Council
E-mail: smithsu@vancouver.wsu.edu

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Conference attendees returned from the visits prepared to develop an action plan for an NCFR SWAT team (Scholars Worldwide Action Team). The team would conduct the research behind current bills and develop fact sheets to provide timely and empirical data to Members of Congress.

Ultimately, **Members of Congress and their staff need access to fast and thorough family science research in the form of fact sheets, statistics and briefing papers.**

NCFR is responding to this need by developing the SWAT concept with the NCFR Public Policy Committee, Nancy Walker of Michigan State University, and others to provide family science research to policy makers and staff. Stay tuned for progress as NCFR forges ahead with this exciting new opportunity.

Laura Eiklenborg, M.P.H.
Project Manager
E-mail: laura@ncfr.org

CALENDAR

June 11-13, 2002

Summer Institute: Parent Education & Training, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. For more information, contact: Rebecca Edwards, 888-662-7457, e-mail: redwards@coefs.coe.unt.edu, or visit www.unt.edu/cpe

June 22-25, 2002

Building Community, American Association of Family & Consumer Science's 93rd Annual Convention and Exposition at the Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion Tower, Dallas, TX. For more information, visit: www.aafcs.org

July 9-16, 2002

6th Annual CMFCE/Smart Marriages Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Washington D.C. For more information, visit www.smartmarriages.com

August 15-18, 2002

The Community Effect in Rural Places, Rural Sociological Society's 65th Annual Meeting at the Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago, IL. Visit www.ruralsociology.org for more information.

October 25, 2002

The Effects of Family Violence on Children: Decreasing the Impact, Family Guidance Training Institute, Inc. conference at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Holiday Inn in Chattanooga, TN. For more information, call Family Guidance Training Institute, Inc.: (931) 431-7580.

November 19-24, 2002

NCFR 64th Annual Conference, Families Over the Life Course: Bridging Research and Practice, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, TX. For more information, contact NCFR: 888-781-9331, or visit the NCFR website at: www.ncfr.org

Register early for the conference and save!!



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