

Linking family research, education, and practice.

Report

September 2005

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IN THIS ISSUE:
Family Focus on...

Aging

pages F1-F40

“There is no way to escape aging. I, too, will grow old.”

This is the first of five “remembrances” that form a daily Buddhist meditation, meant to remind practitioners of life’s transitory nature.

In this issue, we explore various aspects of aging and related issues, such as state and federal public policies, intergenerational equity, retirement, romance and sexuality, grandparenting, caregiving, and the transmission of wisdom through storytelling.

As always, we welcome your comments.

Next Issue:
Family Strengths and Resilience

Expect New Events in Phoenix

Someone once said that change is good. At this year’s Annual Conference, expect to see some changes. The quality of sessions that you’ve relied on will continue this year, too; we’re just improving on a good thing!

The program is filled with “The Multiple Meanings of Families.” The Program Committee has worked hard to ensure that all types of families are included. Topics cover a wide range of issues surrounding age, gender, race and ethnicity, class, and parenting, to name a few. Whatever your interest is, there are bound to be many sessions for you - in fact, most attendees have a problem choosing sessions because there are so many great things going on.

New features this year include talkback sessions, brown bags after plenary sessions, a Round Robin reception for authors, educational sessions presented by exhibitors, and a PowerPoint Presentation celebrating “The Multiple Meanings of Families” with pictures of your families! For those of you looking for a job change, the Employment Matching Service is a great way to locate employers. Graduate students can receive assistance in writing resumes from Nancy Gonzalez, an NCFR staff member with extensive experience in working with job-seeking graduate students.

If you haven’t registered yet, please register on our website. It’s fast, simple, secure, and

you can cross one more thing off your to-do list. Hotel reservations can also be made online. Have you made travel arrangements yet? Remember to take advantage of the airline discounts available to you as conference attendees.



Cindy Winter, CMP, Conference Director and Jane Gilgun, 2005 Program Chair



Don’t forget to take time out for yourself. Enjoy all that Phoenix has to offer. If you prefer the outdoors, play a round of golf or take a horseback ride. For a more relaxing visit, there are plenty of museums, theaters, and shopping opportunities. Whatever you do in Phoenix, you’re guaranteed a sun-filled day!

Cindy Winter, CMP Conference Director E-mail: cindy@ncfr.org
Jane Gilgun Program Chair E-mail: jgilgun@umn.edu



President's Report

Thoughts on NCFR's Use of the Carver Policy Governance Model

As have many of you, over the years I have served on various boards. I also served on the "old" NCFR board as treasurer before former NCFR presidents Greer Litton Fox and William Doherty championed the organization's switch to the Carver Policy Governance Model. While the Carver model is not without its difficulties, in my opinion, it

is an improvement for NCFR over its old approach. You only have to serve on another board *after* you have experienced our new approach, as I have, to remember.

Advantages to the Model

Why do I think the Carver approach to governance is an improvement? Through The NCFR Governance Handbook (available at www.ncfr.org), there are written guidelines for the organization's actions. Because of the guidelines, there is more oversight of the organization's intentions and actions through the board's systematic examination of the executive director's policy governance reports, its own policies, and NCFR's other activities. Through a brief written evaluation form, every area of NCFR is monitored by the board for compliance at least once a year, with some evaluated more than once. Using the Carver approach, governance does not just happen. Based on NCFR's governance handbook, there is a stated or derived basis for the actions the board takes or does not take.

The model provides a better division of labor between the board and the staff. With the board concerned with the ends of the organization and the executive director and staff developing the means to perform those ends, there is less micro-managing of staff actions and decisions. The board's focus on NCFR's ends means our first priority, as the manual states, is on "the knowledge and skills to study, teach about, and serve families"; our second priority states "families, professionals, and public decision makers will be better informed about family well-being."

Another advantage of the Carver model is that there is more education of board members for their work with decisions following more easily from this. Sometimes on boards that don't use the model, it seems that delayed decisions or hastily made decisions without full knowledge lead to a dysfunctional approach to orga-

nization. I have not had this feeling with the Carver approach.

Although serving on any board is an educational process (including the conclusion, "I'm not doing that again"), the Carver model encourages ongoing board education. Thus, in addition to better preparation for decisions, board members receive something of value to take away with them for their service. Board members are educated in a number of ways. First, all new board members attend an orientation meeting in September before they take office at the end of the November annual meeting. This provides an opportunity to learn about NCFR's implementation of the Carver policy governance model through our manual and the issues facing the organization. Although new board members are still a bit hesitant when they first start attending board meetings, I think the orientation increases their knowledge and gets them up to speed faster.

Second, board members receive background education about issues the organization is facing. While I have been a part of the board, this has included presentations about current and coming trends in publishing including online publications; public policy about families; consultant-guided discussion of implementation of the Carver model, and strategic planning. Third, NCFR's president, president-elect, and executive director attend a two-day educational session about the Carver model every two years to help in implementing and understanding the problems organizations like NCFR face in using the approach. This year, the four new board members, who will join the board in November, will also be attending.

Another plus of the Carver governance model is that the smaller number of elected board members (nine with staggered terms versus more than 20 with

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Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for the 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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Elections Council Update

The Elections Council (EC) greatly appreciates the 2006 nominations submitted by the following individuals: Eileen Aragon, Alexis Walker, Katherine Allen, Mark Fine, Lynette Olson, Sally Martin, Sylvia Niehuis, Leonor Boulton Johnson, and Brian Higginbotham. We also appreciate the nominations submitted by the Education and Enrichment, Family Science, and Feminism and Family Studies Sections.

We hope to get even greater participation when asking for nominations for the 2007 ballot. Given our use of the Carver Model of governance, we would like to share the characteristics of the council and the processes used to better represent you.

The EC consists of six members who serve a three-year term, two of whom are elected in a given year. The council meets at the Annual Conference in November and again in the spring during the Public Policy and Education Conference. Members, sections, committees, state affiliates, and Association of Councils are asked to

submit nominations. A nominating form is provided in the annual conference packet, and is also available from section chairs and the NCFR office. To support us in serving you, we recommend that a prior commitment be secured from nominees before submitting the actual nomination form.

A number of processes are used to develop a ballot. At the spring Elections Council meeting, members receive a list of persons who have been nominated and a list of NCFR members who previously have run for office. EC also receives a charge from the Board of Directors regarding criteria to create a diverse slate of nominees. Diversity is very broadly defined, but includes geographic location, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and employment category (i.e., researcher, practitioner, CFLE, and more). The council takes great care in developing a compatible slate of nominees for any given office. For example, we would not have an assistant professor run against

a full professor. These and other factors (i.e., diversity, career level, and leadership experience within the organization) are necessary to address the varied needs of the organization and to enhance the leadership capacity of elected officers. We want the members and elected officers to be positioned for success. Once we have created the slate, members call nominees to see if they are willing to run. Because some people will decline the nomination, we also create an alternative list of nominees for each office.

Our long-term goal is to increase the diversity of our membership and leadership, which poses both an opportunity and challenge when developing a ballot. Most would agree a diverse leadership attracts a diverse membership. Stated differently, to “grow” a diverse leadership, we need a diverse membership! In addition, we are sensitive to leadership burn-out, personal and career life courses, and the need to maintain work-life balance.

Elections Council continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 2*

the old board) makes the decision process an easier one. The Elections Council, elected by the membership, works hard to represent NCFR's constituencies in proposing candidates for the board. The Elections Council needs more participation of the sections, the Association of Councils, and individual NCFR members in nominating people for elected national office.

Disadvantages of the Model

Among the problems of the model, the board struggles with the issue of communication—with members and from the executive director. Generally, the board receives little communication. In addition, as the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NHMRC) controversy illustrates, only a minority of members have taken the time to make their opinions known about it both pro and con.

In other approaches to member communication, there is an open forum yearly at the annual conference after the business meeting and a Diversity Forum (chaired in November by Edith Lewis and Robert

Reyes) for members to address any issues they wish to raise. This year, there will also be a session about the NHMRC on Saturday, November 19.

To foster communication, board members attend all of the section meetings at the annual conference and meet with the section chairs in April and November to find out about pressing issues they identify. The section listservs also help keep section members more involved. As part of my proposed presidential platform, the April, June, and November board meetings are now open to members to attend as observers. In addition, the board agenda and minutes of all of its meetings are online.

Because of the split between board's focus on NCFR's ends and staff concerns with means to implement these, keeping informed of staff actions and decisions in an ongoing way is also a communication issue with which we continue to struggle. For example, grants are generally a means issue to meet the ends of the organization with which the board is not involved.

However, because of the controversial nature of the NHMRC and the monetary size of the cooperative agreement, the board did discuss in detail and then approve the decision to apply for it. Writing and implementing this project and other grants is a staff undertaking which the board only monitors.

As I noted above, board members prepare on a monthly cycle monitoring reports evaluating NCFR's compliance in its various activities and those of the executive director with the written expectations of the NCFR Governance Handbook. Each of the written evaluation reports is reviewed and voted on to determine if the board believes the activities are in compliance. However, in another of my concerns about the Carver model, the press of more immediate matters at our meetings sometimes makes it difficult to vote on these monitoring reports. The board has tried various approaches to keeping up to date with the reports and still struggles with this.

President's Report continued on page 4

ELECTIONS COUNCIL *continued from page 3*

The Elections Council attempts to serve the organization with supportive professionalism. In closing, we hope that this brief overview provides some key facts to you about the work of the Elections Council.

Once again, please start thinking about nominations for the election to be held in February, 2007. We need the nominations by **October 1, 2005**. The co-chairs of the EC are Lynn Pike & Jerelyn Schultz. Other members are Sally Martin, James Ponzetti, Laura Smart, and Tammy Henderson. Board Liaisons are Jane Tornatore & Marcie Brooke.

The terms for the following positions will begin November 2007 at the end of the annual conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

President-elect – 2007-2009 (President 2009-2011)

The President-Elect shall assist the President and in the event of the President's

absence, incapacitation, resignation or death, the President's duties (general management of the business of the NCFR Board) shall devolve upon the President-elect.

Two Board Members-At-Large – 2007-2010

NCFR Board Members are responsible for the overall governance of the organization on behalf of all NCFR members. They attend three face-to-face Board meetings per year, along with regular conference calls and email exchanges. They take responsibility for maintaining contact with the membership and to reflecting the needs of all NCFR members.

Association of Councils President – 2007-2010

The Association of Councils President shall serve on the NCFR Board and represent concerns of the members of the Association of Councils. They preside at all meetings of the Association of Councils

and the AC Executive Board and provide leadership for the Association of Councils.

Two Elections Council Members – 2007-2010

It is the responsibility of the Elections Council to prepare a slate of nominees for officers and members of the Board of Directors, Fellowship Committee, Program Chair-elect, and the Elections Council positions, and to ensure that the policies regarding recruitment as provided by the NCFR Bylaws, and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures are followed.

Two Fellowship Committee Members – 2007-2010

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

Conference Program Chair-elect – 2007-2008 (Program Chair for 2009 Conference)

Serves one year as Conference Program Chair-elect, proceeding to Program Chair the following year and has primary responsibility for selecting the theme for the Annual Conference and selecting plenary and other special speakers.

Send nominations to Jeanne Strand at jeanne@ncfr.org. For additional information, please review our website, www.ncfr.org. Deadline for nominations is October 1, 2005.

*Laura Smart and Tammy Henderson
NCFR Elections Council*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 3*

The length of board members' terms and the Carver approach provides more continuity and accountability of the board. I sometimes worry though that the approach and the expected workload (including one hour telephone conference calls in almost all the months the board does not meet in person in April, June, and November and e-mails between meetings) adds extra burdens on board members, especially beginning professionals. I have found, as I had with the old board, that, almost without fail, NCFR members are prepared and conscientious in their work. Nevertheless, I think the time commitment of the board needs continuous monitoring so that we do not expect too much from our board members who lead busy professional and family lives in addition to their considerable work for NCFR.

Other criticisms of the Carver model that I have heard are that in this approach the ownership of the organization comes from the top down versus the bottom up. This, I think, is a problem in every organization with a board unless the members are active and make their wants and needs known. In addition, some board members have felt constrained by the governance manual guideline that the board governs

as one even if there was disagreement in voting (which rarely happens). This seems to me to be part of our wider culture's tradition of majority rule and does not preclude members at any level of NCFR from voicing their divergent opinions.

A number of non-profit organizations including school boards, city and county governments, charitable organizations, and profit-making corporations use the Carver governance model. At some point, something else will come along that appears better in meeting the governance needs of NCFR, but that we have an intentional plan for governance I believe is an improvement over what NCFR used before.

Thanks to All

This is the last presidential column of my term. My thanks to all of you and the members of the previous and current boards with whom I have served. I want to express my appreciation to NCFR's hard-working staff and especially to Michael Benjamin and Jeanne Strand with whom I have worked most closely as president. I hope to see you all in Phoenix!

*Gay C. Kitson
NCFR President
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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: info@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

See You in Phoenix!

Just two months from now, NCFR will hold its 67th Annual Conference in Phoenix. This year's theme is "The Multiple Meanings of Families."

Jane Gilgun, 2005 Program Chair, and her colleagues on the Program Committee have fashioned an exciting program. It begins with pre-conference workshops on Tuesday, November 15, followed by four full days of presentations, ending on Saturday, November 19.

We expect almost 1,300 NCFR members and other colleagues to join us for the conference. As you make your travel arrangements, check out discounted fares on participating airlines. Just use the following codes when booking your flight online:

- 1 America West Airlines:
www.americawest.com (Code: AP7501)
- 1 United Airlines: www.united.com
(Code: 531CG)
- 1 Northwest Airlines: www.nwa.com
(World File No: NYTUK)

To register for the conference online, go to www.ncfr.org/conference_info/index.asp, where you can also register for your stay at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Phoenix.

Let me highlight a few of many presentations you'll enjoy during the conference. Tuesday's sessions include workshops on *Theory Construction & Research Methodology* and *Promoting the Safety of Women and Their Children Who Separate from Violent Partners*.

Don't miss the *Work-Life Summit: Arizona Style!* Summit participants include the Alliance for Work-Life Progress, the Phoenix Work-Life Network, the State of Arizona Work-Life Employees, the University of Arizona, and Arizona State University. And for those interested in family law, mediation, and foster care policies, the afternoon workshop, *It's the Law: Family Professionals Make a Difference*, is a must!

The conference also features four exciting plenary sessions: On Wednesday,

Professors Vern Bengtson, Fernando Torres-Gil and NCFR President-elect Maxine Hammonds-Smith share their wisdom about *The New Meanings of Old Age in Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. On Thursday, Professor Judith Halberstam discusses *Forgetting Family: Queer Studies and Anti-Oedipal Discourse*. On Friday, Professor Phyllis Moen presents *Beyond Mystiques: The Multiple Meanings of Work and Families*. And on Saturday, Professor Pauline Boss and New York clinicians Lorraine Beaulieu and Andres Torrens explore *Multiple Learnings from Work with Families of 9/11*.

Also on Saturday morning, you'll have a chance to participate in an open forum on the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center.

No matter what your interests, you'll find something to excite your curiosity or tickle your fancy. The conference includes over 450 presentations of new research and practical application in varied formats, a round-robin discussion and reception for authors of books on display in the exhibit area, an ongoing multi-media presentation illustrating the multiple meanings of families, and a special NCFR leadership session sponsored by the Elections Council and the NCFR Board of Directors.

And as always, you'll have an opportunity to network with leaders in the field of family studies.

See you in Phoenix!

Michael L. Benjamin, M.P.H.
NCFR Executive Director
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Margaret Arcus Award

The National Council on Family Relations' Margaret E. Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award was established in 2003 to honor the remarkable contribution made to family life education by Margaret E. Arcus during a long and productive career, to encourage that tradition of excellence and scholarship in family life education by recognizing family life education scholars and practitioners who advance the field of family life education through significant contributions, and to increase the visibility and credibility of family life education scholarship and practice.

Qualifications for nomination may include significant contributions to the field of family life education through research, theory, publication, practice, program development, and/or training of professionals. Specifically, contributions may include, but are not limited to:

- 1 Theoretical scholarship that addresses a significant theoretical issue related to FLE;

- 1 Research or evaluation that provides new insights or directions for FLE;
- 1 Innovative FLE program development based on solid theory and/or research;
- 1 Innovations in higher education or training of family life educators;
- 1 Innovations in program delivery and/or marketing that make an enduring difference to the field of FLE;
- 1 Leadership in the area of policy that significantly impacts opportunities for FLE.

The award may be given to an individual or a small group of collaborators. The recipient may be an early, mid or late career professional who has made an important contribution to the field of FLE.

The Education and Enrichment (E & E) Section will commit \$15,000 to fund the new award. The University of British Columbia held a fundraising event during the Annual Conference in November, 2003 to seek additional contributions for the endowment. The NCFR Executive Director will be petitioned to provide

Margaret Arcus Award continued on page 7



CFLE Directions

Texas Legislation Recognizes Family Degreed Professionals



The Texas legislature recently passed a bill (HB252) that would allow those with a bachelor's degree in counseling, education, **family studies**, psychology, or social work to act as parenting coordinators, provided they complete a 16 hour parenting coordinator course or, hold a graduate degree in a mental health profession, with an emphasis in family and child issues. Parenting Coordinators are often assigned within the court system to facilitate parenting plans between divorcing parents. Many states throughout the

country are in the process of creating a position of parenting coordinator. Some restrict this position to those who are licensed mental health professionals while others require the above listed qualifications. While many licensed mental health professionals would certainly be qualified to act as a parenting coordinator, possession of a license in counseling, therapy, or social work does not necessarily ensure that they have a solid knowledge and understanding of parenting issues or the special complications of working with parents who may be at odds with each other. Nor does the lack of a license necessarily mean that you would *not* be effective as a parenting coordinator.

Many CFLEs and professionals with family-specific degrees have the exact background needed to work with parents and children in the stressful situation of divorce. In addition, CFLEs have specific training in educational and group facilitation techniques. The passing of HB252 provides a wonderful opportunity to bring attention to the unique qualifications of family professionals.

NCFR member Deborah Cashen is a Certified Family Life Educator and director of Parenting Partnerships. She recently represented NCFR at the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) conference. While at that meeting she promoted NCFR and the CFLE program at the NCFR exhibit. In addition, she networked with a number of other professionals with experience in working within the court system with divorcing parents.

As a result of this and other meetings, NCFR has entered into a collaborative agreement with the Association of Family Conciliation Courts and the Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to

CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

Following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated since April 15, 2005. (* - Provisional)

California

Chris Marble

Florida

Barthelemy Demeziere
Stacy Howard
Marty Seyler
Tamara Smith *
Flor Utria

Georgia

J. Tekulve Vann *

Kentucky

Ronald Porter

Louisiana

Ashley Easterling *

Maryland

Maleasa Evans *

Michigan

Erin Beardsley *
David Brown *
Rachel Burley *
Nathaniel Burmeister *
Angela Duckham *
Michael Ellsworth *
Norman Goodall *
Rachel Jolly *
Chia-Hui Lin *
Rosie Little *
Maurine Jones
Barbara Monroe *
Michelle Nichols *
Jennifer Pavlat *
Melissa Payne *
Tifini Scott *
Shelley Steffen *
Deanna Surrette *
Heidi Wiley *
Kelly Zeck *

Minnesota

Rita Donniss DiRico

Mississippi

Teresia Lenard *
Therese Scovel *

Missouri

Melissa Gibson
Sarah Scott *
Lisa Thom

Nevada

Karlin Bauer
Rebecca Carter-Steele
Roberta Metzger *

New York

Jesse Bevel
Kathryn Malchuski *

Ohio

Lora Ashby *
Allison Bruce *
Yvonne Bryant *
Michelle Marcellus *
Deborah Vogt *

Oklahoma

Mark Hoffman *
Tasha Lewis *
Sonya McDaniel *

Oregon

Nancy Walsh *
Kathy Zimmerman *

Pennsylvania

Erin Boyd-Soisson

South Dakota

Mindy Greenfield *

Tennessee

Shea Austin
Kristi Cook *

Texas

Deanna Bird *
Amy Bohn *
Deanna Dawson *
Russell Elleven
Dorene Fox *
Cynthia Garrison *

Utah

Sonja Anderson *
Ana Broadbent *
Shari Gordon *
Cheryl Jones *
Angela Rizzuto *
Debra Rogers *
Jennifer Smith *
Darcy Stuart

Virginia

Megan Linebaugh *
Robin Manes

Washington

Anthony Walker *

West Virginia

Melissa Inez Jameson *

Wisconsin

Elizabeth Wirtz *

FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Gayle Kwan * - Canada
Caroline Gappmaier * - Switzerland
Inez Clarke-McIntosh - West Indies

CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 6*

create a *National Development Plan for Family Systems Training of Parenting Coordinators*. As part of this plan we hope to identify family systems specialists who have memberships with any or all of the participating organizations. With the help of state and regional affiliates, we will collect information from around the country describing services being provided. The collaboration also involves developing a best practices training model based on family systems philosophies and techniques merged with the service models and training from the national and regional levels to refine and improve best practices guidelines for family systems professionals. The National Plan will also include a plan for the education of service providers, consumers, and the legal community regarding the defined family systems service model.

If you are interested in contributing to this effort or just finding out more about the project, contact me at the NCFR office at 888-781-9331 x 12, directly at 763-231-2882, or via email at dawn@ncfr.org.

Planning New FLE Curricula?

The *Family Life Education Syllabus Collection* is here! NCFR is pleased to announce the publication of a collection of syllabi from each of the ten family life content areas of CFLE study. The collection also contains syllabi from interesting Family Studies courses which cover special topics or courses which explore an aspect of family science in greater depth. A journey through this collection is sure to give you fresh ideas for curriculum and course development. To purchase, access the NCFR website for more information at www.ncfr.org

New CFLE Brochure Now Available!

The newly-designed CFLE brochure is now available. A PDF of the brochure is available on the NCFR website at http://www.ncfr.org/cfle/c_certification.htm. (Click on CFLE brochure link). The new brochure is a full-color, 16-page booklet that includes information on the benefits of certification, the application process, the Academic Program Review, and Family Life Education Products and Publications. If you like a copy, or several copies for distribution just send me an email.

NCFR Conference in Phoenix to Mark 20th Anniversary of the Certified Family Life Educator Program!

Since the first CFLEs were designated in 1985 we plan to make the 2005 CFLE Reception at the NCFR Conference in Phoenix, AZ, extra-special. Rather than a reception we are planning a dinner banquet. We are hoping to engage the participation of NCFR-approved programs to help make this special dinner afford-

able for all CFLEs who want to attend. It will be a great opportunity to highlight the progress we've made in bringing recognition to the very important profession of family life education and recognize all the dedicated professionals who have supported the CFLE program throughout the years. If you are a CFLE, we hope you plan to attend!

*Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE
Certification Director
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MARGARET ARCUS AWARD *continued from page 5*

matching funds to assist with the creation of the endowment. The endowment will be held by NCFR and governed by the E & E Executive Committee.

Nominees may submit their own work or may be nominated by others. Each nomination should include a listing of major contributions to the field of FLE, samples of work and letters of support from at least two colleagues. The selection committee also may invite nominations.

The award will include a cash award and a plaque. The award recipient will be invited to present a Family Life Education Update for Practitioners (FLEUP) at the NCFR Annual Conference at which the award is presented (or the conference following, as the program allows).

The intent is to give the Arcus Award every other year (alternating with the Osborne Award for outstanding teaching in the family field). When the selection committee does not consider that any of the nominees has made a qualifying contribution, no award will be given.

The selection committee will include at least three NCFR members who are familiar with the field of FLE. The selection committee will be appointed by the immediate Past Chair, the current Chair and Chair-Elect of the E & E Section. A current or past E & E officer will chair the selection committee. Past award recipients will be invited to serve on the selection committee. Section chairs also may serve on the selection committee.

Changes to the nature of the award, the size of the cash award, the criteria for the award, and/or other details of the award may be proposed to the membership of the E & E Section at the business meeting at the annual conference. Changes will require a majority vote of the membership in attendance at the annual business meeting.

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*H. Wallace Goddard, CFLE
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Annual Conference

Start Thinking About the 2006 Annual Conference in Minneapolis

In a couple months, many of us will be in Phoenix attending the 2005 Annual Conference. It promises to be a great opportunity to explore "The Multiple Meanings of Families". You might consider it a bit early to be thinking about the 2006 Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN, but this is actually a great time to start planning how you want to contribute to that event.

The 2006 NCFR Annual Conference theme is "Unanswered Questions in Marriage and Family Science." It provides a unique opportunity to think about and discuss the many things we still need to understand about families and family relationships. The annual conference is typically a time for NCFR members to meet and share ideas. Often we use the conference to present the results of past family research and to discuss proven clinical approaches to working with families. Sometimes, we're encouraged to consider potential avenues for further research, but the focus is usually on the answers to previously stated hypotheses.

In 2006, we are encouraging NCFR members to focus not so much on what we know, but on **what we still don't know about families**. What are the questions that seldom get asked about family relationships and family process? How might knowing the answers to those questions move the family field forward, and make us better researchers, educators, and practitioners? Are some questions unanswered because the answers are unimportant, or because the questions (or answers to them) are too controversial? Or, have some questions been previously unanswerable because of methodological problems that no longer present barriers?

As families and their contexts change, the questions that guide our scholarship must also change, if they are to help us produce information that is relevant to

contemporary family life. To help us delve into these questions, we will enlist the help of several nationally recognized theorists and practitioners.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Alvin Poussaint, Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard University and Director of the Judge Baker Media Center in Boston, MA. In a brilliant career, Dr. Poussaint has pushed the mental health field to better understand the role of ethnicity in psychological well-being, the pernicious effects of depression and suicide in African-American communities, and the role the mass media play in maintaining (or ameliorating) institutional racism. All of these have been examples of past "unanswered questions" we are still grappling with today.

There will also be several plenary panels discussing topics exploring new vistas

for research in marriage and committed relationships, clinical interventions with diverse families, and intergenerational parenting just to name a few. A primary aim will be to foster dialogue between conference participants that encourages us to ask and seek answers to unanswered questions. And because the annual conference is not just about work, we are planning another "Night at the Penumbra (Theatre)" to give us a chance to continue the spirit of exploration in a completely different context. "What will be we doing at the Penumbra?" you ask? Well, THAT is another "unanswered question"...

Learn more about the 2006 NCFR Annual Conference at this year's Conference in Phoenix, AZ. See you there!

Bill Allen
2006 Program Chair
E-mail: ballen@umn.edu

International Year of the Family (IYF) – United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG)



This is the 11th anniversary of the United Nation's original proclamation of International Year of the Family (IYF); NCFR has chosen to acknowledge IYF through 2005. Part of the acknowledgement is a discussion of the confluence between NCFR and UN activities. In this column, I will describe the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

In September 2000, the UN's General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration (United Nations, 2000). At the beginning of a new millennium,

there was an opportunity to reaffirm the UN's commitment to promote health, safety, justice, development and equality around the globe. Based on this principle, eight specific goals were identified:

- (1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- (2) Achieve universal primary education for boys and girls
- (3) Promote gender equality and empower women
- (4) Reduce child mortality

Year of the Family continued on page 12



Section News

Family and Health Section

The Family and Health Section will sponsor a number of interesting symposiums (elderly families, women’s health, culturally diverse families, families raising children with chronic illnesses/disabilities, families with adolescent and young adult members, and work and the family) at the annual conference, as well as four round tables and twenty posters. Topics for the round tables include what caregiving means to elderly recipients

of family care, cultural variations in food beliefs and practices when a member of the family has a chronic illness, family health decision making, and involving undergraduates in faculty research. Poster topics include caregiving, transition to nursing home placement, adolescent risk behaviors, health problems of rural families living in poverty, prenatal alcohol use, predictors of college student binge drinking, the effect of an intervention on fathers’

interaction with infants, quality of life for army spouses during Operation Iraqi Freedom, disclosure to family and sexual risk-taking of HIV positive men, adolescent sexuality and positive youth development, low income children’s experiences with domestic violence, breastfeeding education for adolescent mothers, and access to health care after welfare reform. The Section hopes many NCFR members are able to not only attend these sessions, roundtables, and poster sessions, but also the three special sessions (violence and the family, health care needs of Native American Elders, aging). Specific information about the times, days and places for these events are available in the online program

Family Policy Section

This fall’s NCFR conference, “The Multiple Meanings of Families,” promises to be an exciting one, particularly in terms of policy-related presentations. Our Section is co-sponsoring a number of different sessions during the conference including “Family Policy: Education for Action From a SoTL Perspective,” “Sexual Orientation and Family Policy,” “How Can NCFR and Its People Serve Communities?” and “Health Care Issues/Needs of Navajo Elders and Policy Implications.” We are also co-sponsoring one pre-conference session entitled “Promoting the Safety of Women and Children When Women Separate from

Their Violent Partners.” In addition, we have a number of good presentations in paper, poster and roundtable format. Our Section meeting is scheduled for Thursday night from 8-9:15p.m. Three of our focus groups (Rural Families and Communities, Work and Families, and Adoption) also have meeting times scheduled. As you read through your conference program, be sure to highlight all Family Policy Section activities and attend as many as possible while in Phoenix!

Debra Berke, CFLE
Chair, Family Policy Section
E-mail: dberke@messiah.edu

The Section is also sponsoring a publication entitled *Families and Violence: Syllabi and Instructional Materials* that should be available in Phoenix at the annual conference. Content in the syllabus comes from a wide variety of courses that examine issues related to families and violence, including domestic violence, community and school violence, and war/terrorism.

Barbara Mandleco
Chair, Family and Health Section
E-mail: Barbara_mandleco@byu.edu

Experience the sights and sounds of the Southwest.
Come early or stay late – you won’t be disappointed!





Affiliate Connection

Association of Councils Update

Cassidy Mellor, the Student Representative on the AOC Board, developed a survey to get feedback on what affiliates need and want. Lynda Bessey, NCFR Staff Liaison, sent it out on the AOC listserv. So far very few responses have come in. Please take a moment to give the Board your thoughts. Your input is vital to the future of NCFR. The NCFR Board cares deeply about serving you and wants your voices to be heard.

The winners of the student papers will present one paper on Friday and one on Saturday at the Annual Conference in Phoenix. Be sure to start making plans to attend the number one conference for Family Life Education Professionals.

The Minnesota Council on Family Relations sponsored the National Parent Education Institute V in partnership with Family Education Program University of Minnesota, the National Parenting Education Network, University of Minnesota Extension and the University of Minnesota Children Youth and Family Consortium on May 20th and 21st. Dr. Marti Rossman Professor Emeritus, Family Education University of Minnesota and Rose Allen, Family Relations Specialist, University of Minnesota Extension co-chaired this highly energizing Institute. The conference began with a pre-institute on creating parenting plans for divorcing or never married parents, a session on how divorce affects parents and children and what is new with teens and their families.

The Institute itself was highly participative. Ted Bowman, a consultant in group process and parent education, was the "Navigator". Dr. Marc Bornstein, Senior Investigator and Head Child and Family Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Services began by presenting a systemic view of intervention in parenting. Glen Palm, Professor of Child and Family Studies at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota shared the differing ways parents gain knowledge and insight. He stated: "Parent Education is a

creative, interactive process where parent educators serve as guides.....it is an art."

Dr. Martha Ferrell Erickson, Senior Fellow and Co-Chair of the University of Minnesota Initiative on Children, Youth and Families shared what families in the STEEP Program have taught her about supporting them to be the best families they can be. Jean Illsley Clarke and H. Wallace Goddard discussed the best practices of experienced Parent Educators. Dr. William Doherty discussed Community Engaged Parent Education.

On Saturday, H. Wallace Goddard, University of Arkansas, Cooperative Extension Services, keynoted the morning with why Parent Education is needed today and into our future. Then Dr. Ada Alden, Director of Family Educational

Services Family Center in Eden Prairie, MN sent the audience on their way with a resounding, strong, encouraging message to be courageous and "get ready.....get set...Go Forth" and seek ways to present the knowledge we have gained to families, legislators, business and community leaders.

Credit for CFLEs was offered by the Institute. CFLE credentials are becoming ever more important as the center I direct, the Working Family Resource Center, a business/education partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools, and businesses offer Parent Education and Family Life Education across the life cycle at the workplace for employees.

In an evolving society, where families and work environments are continuously

Councils Update continued on page 11

California Council on Family Relations

On May 6-7, 2005, the California Council on Family Relations held its 5th Annual Conference on the Northridge campus of the California State University. The theme was "Changing American Families," and it spoke to attendees in a number of ways. A wide range of topics were presented – from stressors that affect parents in immigrant families to affecting positive change in families with young children.

Presenters traveled from across the state and across the country to address attendees. The CCFR hosted three notable keynote speakers: NCFR Board Member, Martha F. Erickson; pediatrician and author, Eli Newberger; and counseling psychologist, Carolyn Newberger. They and session presenters focused on how changes have occurred in the ways families are viewed and defined, how individual families can develop and change over time for the better – even those with patterns of abuse, and how changes occur or sometimes need to occur in the ways practitioners work with families because

of the makeup of family structures. Two other memorable events of the conference included a symposium whose presenters examined three decades of data from the USC Longitudinal Study of Generations through three topics – predicting divorce over the last quarter of the twentieth century, filial responsibility for aging parents, and intergenerational solidarity. Additionally, a panel discussed and compared the different types of families that exist, including gay families in the U.S. and different family structures in other parts of the world.

The conference was very enlightening, especially for our many student attendees, and we hope to see NCFR members and other family practitioners at next year's conference which will be held on March 31 – April 1, 2006, in San Diego. We also would like to wish congratulations to newly-elected chair of the International Section of NCFR, CCFR Treasurer, Shulamit N. Ritblatt.

*Carolyn Macaranas Wong, President
California Council on Family Relations
E-mail: Carolyn.amwong@gmail.com*

Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations Sponsors 15th Annual Building Strong Families Conference

The Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations (MACFR) will be sponsoring the 15th annual Building Strong Families conference at Messiah College in Grantham, PA on October 20, 2005. The annual Building Strong Families conference is a cooperative effort between MACFR, institutions of higher education, and local human service agencies in the south central region of Pennsylvania. This cooperative effort attracts participants and presenters from throughout the MACFR region which includes Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. The goal of the yearly conference is to (1) recognize the critical role of families in society; (2) encourage research and disseminate information about families; (3) foster dialogue among family professionals and educators; and (4) promote family life education.

COUNCILS UPDATE

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changing, employee needs must be frequently examined. It is becoming more difficult to find a work-life "fit" that educates, strengthens, and affirms working families while maintaining a loyal, engaged workforce. The Working Family Resource Center is constantly seeking new and enhancing current delivery systems and products to assist employees with their work-life needs. Who better to help deliver and disseminate this education than a Certified Family Life Educator!

Today's workplace is profoundly affected by the changing American family. Today's wise and proactive employer is responsive to this reality.

There are many ways our affiliate councils can become more engaged in the workplace and the community. Talk to your colleagues, introduce them to your affiliate and invite them to enhance their personal and professional development through the National Council on Family Relations. Become a Certified Family Life Educator....it may enhance your career in ways one never imagined.

Marcie J. Brooke CFLE
President, Association of Councils
E-mail: Marcie.Brooke@spps.org

This year's theme is "Families in Transition." Although families experience a variety of stressors, distress is more likely to result in times of transition when already strained resources are taxed even further. Conference speakers and presenters will address many of these concerns and offer new possibilities for assisting families in transition. Four concurrent workshop sessions are scheduled throughout the day-long conference and will address a variety of topics related to families in transition including: poverty, immigration, parenthood, adoption, grief, and pharmacotherapy for families in transition. The keynote address will be given by Mark Greenberg, Director of The Prevention Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development at The Pennsylvania State University, and is entitled, "Promoting Social and Emotional Development: Building Resilience for Transitions in Childhood." Greenberg's address will focus on how both normative transitions (entering preschool, formal schooling, adolescence) and non-normative transitions (divorce or other traumatic

events) place substantial stress on children. His address will discuss basic skills such as social and emotional development and how to promote them using a resiliency-based framework.

The conference will include a human services fair and student poster presentations. The human services fair is designed to provide an environment where family life educators and human service professionals can share resources for assisting families. This resource exchange will include information from a variety of agencies and organizations that serve families. Additionally, the conference will sponsor student poster presentations to support the professional development of future family life educators and human service professionals. Prizes will be awarded for the best student posters.

If you would like more information about the conference you can visit the website at www.messiah.edu/BSF2005 or contact Denise Anderson at DLAnde@ship.edu.

Larry Forthun, President
Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations
E-mail: lff3@psu.edu

Taiwan Council on Family Relations: International Family Life Education Center

On International Family Day, May 2005, the Taiwan Council on Family Relations in Taipei conducted various family life education programs. These included public speeches, education systems, seminars, and workshops. A press release on May 20th covered the following topics:

- 1 How much progress has the government actually achieved since Taiwan Family Education Law was approved by legislative Yuen in 2003 and how many benefits have been delivered to Taiwanese families.
- 1 The Taiwanese government should look into the influence and impact on separated families, due to the changing economic structure between China's and Taiwan's industries.

- 1 Analysis focusing on the resources and funding NCFR obtained from the United States' government in carrying out the family study and research in order to benefit the nation. The Taiwanese government needs to catch up and put more efforts into how to prevent the family problem in the nation.

Two sessions of rural family life education were held on the 21st and 28th of May, titled: *Let's make a difference* and how to maintain peaceful family by *Emotional Cultivation*. The participants consisted of families and young couples between the ages of 12 to 72. It was encouraging to have many male participants with us on those days, as females have been the primary audience of such events in the past.

Taiwan Council continued on page 12

Arthur Rolnick to Receive Distinguished Service to Families Award

Arthur J. Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, is the National Council on Family Relations's 2005 recipient of the Distinguished Service to Families Award. Peg Lindlof and Beth Mediger report that "Mr. Rolnick's research on the economics of education and his essays on issues such as 'The Economics of Early Childhood Development,' have gained national attention in policy arenas that impact families, and have given early childhood advocates a new voice." Mr. Rolnick's work has helped "convince business leaders and the public about the importance of early childhood education. His research has shown that the best economic develop-

ment investment to be made with taxpayer dollars is in an investment in human capital, which increases the base of the economy." More specifically, he proposes that early childhood development programs, particularly those targeting at-risk children, yield important economic benefits to communities and society at large.

Mr. Rolnick was nominated by the Minnesota Council on Family Relations. DSF Award committee members included: Susan Meyers, Ronald Pitzer, Dan Sandifer-Stech, Ruben Viramontez Anguiano, and Raeann Hamon, Chair.

Raeann Hamon, CFLE
Chair, Distinguished Service to Families Award
E-mail: rhamon@messiah.edu

YEAR OF THE FAMILY

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- (5) Improve maternal health
- (6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- (7) Ensure environmental sustainability
- (8) Develop a global partnership for development (United Nations, 2005c).

All member states of the UN (n=191) have pledged to meet the goals (United Nations, 2005c). The UN has created task forces to develop pragmatic and enactable plans to achieve the goals (United Nations, 2005b). Progress towards the goals is reviewed annually, and a five-year review will be conducted this autumn (United Nations, 2004).

Some colleagues might reasonably question the relevance of these goals to NCFR. Given the family focus, an argument could be made that NCFR is not involved in issues such as environmental sustainability or global partnerships. While this might true, I think that recent events, such as the South Asian tsunami, reveal the direct impact of environmental issues on family dynamics (and at a more fundamental level, family survival). The Millennium Declaration (United Nations, 2000) noted that the UN has a duty to promote human dignity for all people, but special attention should be paid to the most vulnerable groups, including children. I would note that this dedication to human dignity and attention to vulnerable groups is also evident in the work of NCFR members.

In addition, I respectfully suggest that the UN and NCFR Sections focus attention on similar issues. For example, Feminism & Family Studies, Family & Health, Education & Enrichment (including the Peace Focus Group), International and Research & Theory (including the Child & Adolescent Focus Group) Sections address social issues reflected in these goals. The Family Policy, Family Therapy, Ethnic Minorities and Religion & Family Life sections address issues such as community support/clinical services, social justice and family diversity; these issues are consistent with the underlying values of the Millennium Declaration (e.g., United Nations, 2000). In addition, the

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Michigan Council on Family Relations

The Michigan Council on Family Relations announces that the fall issue of our peer-reviewed journal, *Michigan Family Review* will be on line at <http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/mfr/> in time for the NCFR Conference. This issue on "Feminism & Families" is co-edited by Guest Editors Maxine Baca Zinn of Michigan State University and Heather Dillaway of Wayne State University. Articles accepted to date include, "Staying at Home versus Working: A Call for Broader Conceptualizations of Parenthood and Work," "More Good Times and Hard Times: Family Diversity in a Rural Michigan Community," "Should I Stay or Should I Go Now?: Wives' Participation in the Decision to Move for Their Spouses' Jobs," "Conducting Multiracial Feminist Family Research: Challenges and Rewards of Recruiting a Diverse Sample," and "There is No Freedom Which Can Be For the Men Without the Women: Familial Autobiographies of Black South African and African American Women Activists."

We are also celebrating *MFR's* 10-year survival and our upcoming one-year anniversary as an open access online journal through the Scholarly Publishing Office of The University of Michigan Libraries! *Michigan Family Review* is edited

by Libby Balter Blume of the University of Detroit Mercy. *MFR* Editorial Board members are Gloria Albrecht, Betty Barber, Thomas Blume, Gary Bischof, Clifford Broman, Martin Covey, Heather Dillaway, Thomas Eveland, Roy Gerard, Edith Lewis, Anne Soderman, Mary Periard, Carl Taylor, and Gloria Warren. This will be Blume's final issue as *MFR* editor. Incoming editor Marty Covey will assume leadership of the journal beginning with the next issue on Families & Technology. Go to <http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/mfr/about.html> to view the Call for Papers and submission guidelines.

Libby Blume, CFLE
Editor, Michigan Family Review
E-mail: blumelb@udmercy.edu

TAIWAN COUNCIL

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Subsequent to this event, the IFLE carried out 5-week intensive seminars in July and August. A brief introduction of NCFR and CFLE were open to the public in order to attract more new professionals in Taiwan.

Hsiang-Ming Justine Kung
President, Taiwan Council on Family Relations
E-mail: hmkung@cc.shu.edu.tw

YEAR OF THE FAMILY *continued from page 12*

Family Science and Student/New Professional sections promote skill development for professionals who serve families through many venues.

Some colleagues might wish to support the Millennium Development Goals, but don't have international expertise or might find the issues overwhelming (e.g., eradicating poverty). However, the UN states that "it isn't the United Nations or Governments that will put an end to social injustice, it is people like you who can make a difference" (United Nations, 2005d). Thus, they suggest that individuals act in small ways (e.g., show a film about a goal issue, volunteer with a local organization, purchase fair trade products), and the accumulation of small actions will foster global change (United Nations, 2005a).

In addition, the UN website offers many documents that instructors could utilize to teach about the social problems and development goals (see website references for examples and related site links). Such instruction might help students under-

stand the conditions and challenges faced by many of the world's families. Our current undergraduate and graduate students will be the new generation of family professionals as the Millennium Development Goals come to fruition; more informed students might be better prepared to participate in goal fulfillment as their careers develop.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions/comments about the IYF Committee. Thank you for your attention.

Jacki Fitzpatrick, CFLE
IYF Committee Chair
E-mail: jacki.fitzpatrick@ttu.edu

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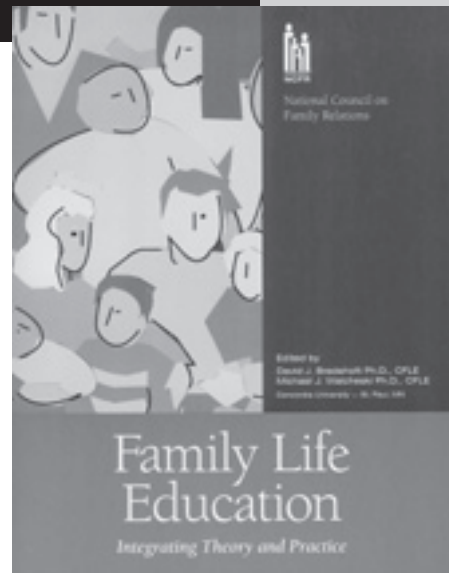


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- ♦ **Vern Bengtson**, Univ. of Southern California; **Fernando Torres-Gil**, Univ. of California-Los Angeles; **Maxine Hammonds-Smith**, Consultant on Aging and Intergenerational Wellness, Houston, TX - ***The New Meanings of Old Age in Cross-cultural Perspectives***
- ♦ **Phyllis Moen**, Univ. of Minnesota - ***Beyond Mystiques: the Multiple Meanings of Work and Families***
 Discussants: **Kevin Roy**, Univ. of Maryland and **Shelley MacDermid**, Purdue Univ.
- ♦ **Judith Halberstam**, Univ. of Southern California - ***Forgetting Family: Queer Studies and Anti-Oedipal Discourse*** Discussants: **Stephen Marks**, Univ. of Maine; **April Few**, Virginia Tech
- ♦ **Pauline Boss**, Univ. of Minnesota; **Lorraine Beaulieu**, NY-Project Union Outreach, **Andres Torrens**, Roberto Clemente Center, NY - ***Multiple Learning From Work With Families of 9/11***

Special Sessions

- ♦ **Carl Ridley**, Univ. of Arizona, **Rodney Cate**, **Brian Ogolsky**, and **Dawn Collins**, Arizona State Univ., and **Heather Haberman**, Univ. of Minnesota - ***Research on Families Using the Internet Surveys and Ethnographies***
- ♦ **Mark Roosa** and **Larry Dumka**, Arizona State Univ. - ***Working With Mexicans and Mexican-Americans: Cultural and Contextual Perspectives***

Research Update

- ♦ **Richard Fabes**, **Carol Martin**, **Laura Hanish**, Arizona State Univ. - ***Peer Relationships in Childhood***

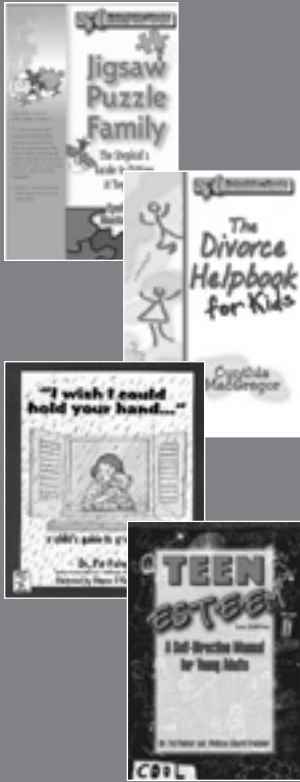
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CALENDAR

September 16-21, 2005

Bridging Differences: Expanding Tools, Best Practices, and Collaboration, Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute's 10th International Conference at the Town & Country Hotel & Convention Center in San Diego, CA. Visit www.fvsai.org for further information.

September 26, 2005

Family Day: A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children, a national effort begun by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA). To learn more about Family day, visit the CASA website at www.casafamilyday.org.

October 20, 2005

Families in Transition, 15th Annual Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations' Building Strong Families Conference at Messiah College, Grantham, PA. More

information available online at www.messiah.edu/BSF2005.

October 20-23, 2005

The State Moral Imperative: Relational Therapies Today, 63rd AAMFT Annual Conference, Westin Crown Center, Kansas City, MO. Visit www.aamft.org for more details.

November 16-19, 2005

NCFR 67th Annual Conference, The Multiple Meanings of Families, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix, AZ. For more information, contact NCFR: 888-781-9331, or visit the NCFR website at: www.ncfr.org.

December 2, 2005

Caregiving: A Family Journey, Minnesota Council on Family Relations' Fall Conference. University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus. Contact MCFR if you are interested in attending: www.mcfr.net.



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