

Linking family research, education, and practice.

# Report

March 2006

Volume 51:1



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**Public Policy**

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Once the research design is established, the data collected, and the proper calculations made, researchers must still ask, "What do these findings mean for real families in real situations? And what are the policy implications for government, business, and family-serving organizations?" In other words, "So what?"

In this issue, we attempt to help researchers answer this question. We offer suggestions on how to present research findings to policymakers and engage students in policy discussions. We also explore the relationship between public policy and child care, child custody, single-mother families and other issues.

As always, we welcome your comments.

**Next Issue:  
Families and  
Work-Life**

## Eight Fellows Chosen in Phoenix

Fellowship status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few members of NCFR who have made outstanding and enduring contributions that have broad impact on the field of family science in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach or professional service. Fellows are nominated by their peers and are also selected for their consistent record of superior contributions to NCFR over time.

The Fellowship Committee (Estella A. Martinez, Chair, Elaine A. Anderson, Patricia Bell-Scott, Mark Fine, Lane H. Powell) selected the following eight NCFR Fellows for 2005:



**Jean W. Bauer, Ph.D.,**

Professor of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota and Director of Graduate Studies for Family Social Science as well as for the new university-wide interdisciplinary doctoral minor in Family Policy. Dr. Bauer has masterfully connected her research and outreach programs with the overarching theme of her work focused on the economic well being of families. She is considered a pioneer in family policy education, and she provided leadership in helping Minnesota with its innovative welfare reform program. Her research programs have addressed several

issues concerning populations with limited resources and high financial vulnerability, including the role of financial counseling in helping families with financial difficulties, the economic well-being of farm families facing economic stress, the interconnections between economic and emotional well-being in rural families, the economic well-being of the elderly, and family policies that promote economic well-being in families. Dr. Bauer supported some of her research with over 1.1 million dollars of external funding including support from USDA and the Department of Education. She currently leads a 17-multistate USDA project examining rural low-income families. Dr. Bauer's scholarship (26 articles in journals such as Family Relations, 4 book chapters, 2 policy briefs, 48 refereed conference proceedings, presentations, or posters) and her 53 conference and community presentations provide evidence of her commitment to theory development, to bridging theory and practice, and to policy development. Dr. Bauer's programs have also received international recognition, e.g., she was an invited keynote speaker at the Women's Worlds 2005 interdisciplinary congress in Seoul, South Korea in June 2005. Jean Bauer has been an active member of NCFR since 1983, and she is a member of the Theory and Research and Family Policy Sections. She has brought her expertise in policy education to NCFR in her service as

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## FELLOWS CHOSEN *continued from page 1*

member-at-large, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Public Policy Committee.

**Margaret Crosbie-Burnett, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Educational and Psychological Studies, University of Miami; Director of Training, Ph. D. Program in Counseling Psychology (1993-1996); Program Coordinator, Master's in Counseling Program (1993-2005); Department Chair (1997-2005). Professor Crosbie-Burnett's impact on the field of

family studies since 1981 has been described as legendary. Her research and teaching at all stages of her career have



focused on the leading issues of non-traditional families. She has worked on interdisciplinary research projects with scholars across the United States and Scandinavia, and she

has coordinated numerous conferences on stepfamily issues. One of her most notable achievements was her work with the Wingspread Conferences on stepfamilies, which placed research with this target population into the mainstream of family studies in the early 1980's. Her contributions as a methodologist include the development of a major research instrument that is designed for multiple family members and has been utilized throughout the country. This creative instrument enabled her to research family dynamics from multiple perspectives in the family and to assess agreement, conflict and power dynamics from a family systems perspective. Within NCFR, Professor Crosbie-Burnett has been a tireless worker. She was one of the founders and co-chair of the NCFR Focus Group on Remarriage and Stepfamilies where she demonstrated how to connect across disciplinary lines—bringing researchers and practitioners together. Her service within the Feminism and Family Studies, Ethnic Minorities, and Family Theory and Methodology Sections has been exemplary. She chaired a successful fundraiser for the Jesse Bernard Scholarship Fund of the Feminism and Family Studies Section. Margaret also chaired an NCFR Theory and Research Methods Pre-conference Workshop that was evaluated as outstanding. Professor Crosbie-Burnett was sought out as a contributor to both the *Handbook on Family Theories and Methods* and the *Sourcebook on Family Theory and Research*, and she served as an area consultant in the latter.

**Randal D. Day, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Marriage, Family, and Human Development, Brigham Young University. Dr. Day has become nationally prominent for his research and scholarship on the

nature of the family discipline/profession, theoretical writings on family processes, and, most recently and prominently, the study of fathering. His work on fathering has become particularly noteworthy through a variety of 35 journal articles, 19 book chapters, 6 edited and authored books, and leadership roles in such professional venues as an NIH Conference on Father Involvement and the National Center on Fathers and Fathering. His national prominence and leadership in our field is reflected in the large number of journals for which he has served in the roles of Associate Editor, editorial board member, and reviewer. Randy has chaired sessions, workshops, and programs sponsored by NIH that are related to family policy about fathering. He has



had a leadership role in the National Center on Fathers and Fathering, which has as its mission to link research to policy and action. His workshops there have included

researchers, practitioners, and policy leaders focused on a particular policy area about fathering. Randy edited a special issue of *Marriage and Family Review* on "Fatherhood: Research, Interventions, and Policies." As part of the NIH-funded Family and Child Well-Being network, he organized and chaired a conference on Measuring Father Involvement. He has extended his research on fathering by developing an innovative project intended to assist incarcerated fathers in making a smooth transition as they return to the community and their families. Randy Day's focus on fathering and strengthening fathering has involved him with policy issues that are central to NCFR. His many roles in NCFR include Chair of the Family Discipline Section, member of the Board, Chair of TCRM, and he is currently on the editorial board of *Family Relations*.

**H. Wallace Goddard, Ph.D., CFLE**, Professor and Family Life Specialist, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension. Wally Goddard's work on outreach represents the best that NCFR

## 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.

President: Pam Monroe  
Editor: Michael L. Benjamin  
Managing Editor: Nancy Gonzalez  
Topics Feature Writer: Nancy Giguere

How to Contribute to the NCFR Report: The NCFR Report is member-written and articles are encouraged! Articles accepted for publication may be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on 1) relevance to the Family Focus theme, or 2) brevity due to space limitations, or 3) on the order it was received. **The contents of Report articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.**

Letters to the Editor must be brief—150 words or fewer—and they must be signed. To advertise in the Report, please see the specifications and price list at [http://www.ncfr.org/adrates\\_report.html](http://www.ncfr.org/adrates_report.html). Deadlines for all submissions for the 2006 issues are: June 2006 – April 3, September 2006 – July 3, December 2006 – October 3. Send submissions to: Nancy Gonzalez at [nancy@ncfr.org](mailto:nancy@ncfr.org). For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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

Third class postage permit.

Report subscription rate: \$20 per year; \$5 per copy. For bulk rates, call 888-781-9331, ext. 14. Annual membership dues include Report subscription. \$15 U.S. postage per year postpaid at individual rate.

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# President's Report

## Your Input is Vital

**W**arm best wishes for a wonderful New Year. You realize, no doubt, that I am writing this in early January, so I am thinking about a fresh start to the year. For so many of us in the Gulf South, 2005 was so hard and many issues remain unsettled yet for our communities, academic and professional institutions, and families. So we use this time for tying up some remaining reflections and continue to set personal and professional goals for 2006.

There are a couple of matters lingering from the 2005 Annual Conference that I want to discuss with you. The first is rather sensitive, but my comments here certainly are not meant to offend or scold, only to make an observation. A handful of people spoke or wrote of similar concerns, so let me put this before us all.

At one of our plenary sessions, seriously negative statements were made about certain religious and political values. It surely is not the first time such has happened, and it is not the only time that personal values across the spectrum have been challenged by speakers at our conferences. (Personally, I welcome speakers, writers, artists, and others who challenge

my values even to the point of making me uncomfortable. One of the ways we grow as persons, as an organization, and as a society is by confronting such topics in a civil and thoughtful way.) What was disconcerting was that our response to some critical, even sardonic, statements by this speaker was laughter, applause, and cheering.

Let us always be mindful that such statements will be challenging and difficult for some of us, our friends, and colleagues to hear – that these matters will touch on what is very serious or even sacred – and that we must give each other a respectful space in which to contemplate words that challenge us. To do otherwise risks division and polarization within the membership; something that no organization will survive for very long.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and the administrative staff of the NCFR offices, I want to assure each of you that we are vitally interested in what you have to say about NCFR: your concerns, your experiences in our organization, and your suggestions for change or improvement. Please note that our contact information is provided in

this newsletter, on the website, in our journals, and in numerous other places. If writing out a letter or email is too cumbersome or time-consuming, pick up the telephone and call us. We are acting on several matters of concern expressed by our members.

One of our first goals for 2006 is to improve our NCFR website to better serve members and sections. We are also monitoring the section listservs more carefully so that new members are added in a timely basis and section leaders can communicate with their members more efficiently. Next, we are adding a “Letters to the Editor” feature to the REPORT. Standard editorial practices will apply; letters must be signed, and those chosen for publication may be edited. Submit your letters on any topic – we welcome this dialogue. Please send letters to the editor to the Report managing editor, Nancy Gonzalez, at [nancy@ncfr.org](mailto:nancy@ncfr.org).

During the first half of 2006, the Board will continue to consider issues such as a proposal for a new journal, and how to engage in NCFR in public policy/policy education. Your comments would be most helpful. We also heard a great deal this past year about how NCFR chooses its leaders. On this matter we welcome not only your comments but your action: please suggest names to the Elections Council or nominate yourself as a candidate for the various offices in the organization. Above all, take time to vote in the current election and by-laws revisions. Finally, please avail yourself of the agenda notices and minutes of the monthly Board of Directors telephone conferences. These documents are posted to the “Members” section of the NCFR website, just before/after the Board’s conference the first Thursday evening of most months of the year. Let us know if you have difficulty accessing this site.

One final matter involves site selection for our annual conferences. One of the

## Sussman Award

The Groves Conference on Marriage and Family announces that nominations are now being accepted for the Sussman Award. This award, established by Professor Emeritus Marvin Sussman, was established to recognize the best publication from recent years that supports the theme of the Groves Conference annual meeting. Winners are expected to present their award winning work at the annual meeting. The meeting this year is in Tucson April 6-9. This year the theme is Families, Borders, and Boundaries. Although the theme has direct implications for

immigration issues upon families, indirectly there are many other “boundary” issues that would be appropriate.

The award carries a stipend of \$1,000 and up to \$1,000 in travel expenses. Nominations, including self-nominations, and the nominated paper should be submitted by March 1 to:

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411 Gentry Hall  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211  
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E-mail: [colemanma@missouri.edu](mailto:colemanma@missouri.edu)

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offers the nation and the world according to one of the letters supporting his nomination. He is a quintessential outreach scholar who combines the rigor of a



scholar with the creativity of a teacher and the large vision of a social change agent. Among a long list of accomplishments, he has been a leading innovator in developing media

to reach families, especially seen in his online family resources for parents and family professionals. This work combines the best scholarship available on the family with the best educational and outreach methodologies. Wally Goddard has developed state of the art program evaluations, and he has written books such as *Family Life Education: Principles and Practices for Effective Outreach* for professionals and *The Parenting Journey*, a colorful, concise publication that effectively teaches the best practices in parenting to general audiences, as well as professional book chapters, and referred journal articles. Dr. Goddard has made significant contributions to the fields of

parenting and marriage education. His work has earned him the respect of local clientele and educators as well as state and national leaders. "Dr. Wally's" sincere, yet expert style of presentation and teaching make him one of the most effective educators in Extension. He is well known for his creativity and innovation in writing and program design and delivery. In addition, he has a stellar record of service to the profession and to NCFR. He has made dozens of presentations at NCFR annual conferences, chaired the Education & Enrichment Section, chaired the Arcus Award Committee, served as an Associate Editor for *Family Relations*, co-chaired the Parent Education Focus Group, and is an active CFLE.

**Shelley MacDermid, Ph.D., CFLE**, Professor of Child Development and Family Studies, Department of Child Development and Family Studies, Co-director Military Family Research Institute, and Director, Center for Families, School of Consumer and Family Sciences, Purdue University. Shelley is a distinguished family scholar with a record of contributions in theory, research, and practice; as well as distinguished service to NCFR. She has a deep compassion for families, a tireless work ethic, amazing analytical



intelligence, prodigious scholarly output, exceptional mentoring skills, and the capacity to engage and motivate laypersons as well as professionals.

Dr. MacDermid has 36 refereed journal articles and 19 book chapters published that focus on the relationship between work conditions and family life. She was the leader of the team selected to write the work and family chapter in the recent *Sourcebook of Family Theories and Methods*. Dr. MacDermid edited 2 special journal issues (*Journal of Family Issues* and *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*) focusing on analyses of the National Studies of the Changing Workforce, bringing visibility to those data sets and promoting analyses of a nationally representative sample of workers. External reviewers for the Kanter Award nominated three of her articles in 2001, 2002, and 2003. Shelley presented 40 times at NCFR and served as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary Treasurer, and Chair/Member of the Feminism and Family Studies Section mentoring committee and awards funding review committee. Over this tenure, Shelley also worked closely on numerous awards committees for this section. Recently, She has served as Reuben Hill Award Committee Chair from having also served as a member of this award committee. In addition, Shelley was appointed by the Program Vice-President to be Co-Chair of the 1998 Pre-Conference Planning Committee, and was appointed by the President of NCFR to take part in a task force on technology from 1995-1996.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 3*

sections asked the Board to consider a particular factor in choosing a site for future annual conferences. The short story is that we are happy to do so, and I want to take this occasion to let you know that we would be happy to hear from individuals or other sections on this matter as well. This is also an opportunity to remind us all of a couple of facts that I shared with the Section Chair who wrote us about this matter: annual conference site selections are made several years in advance. Once contracts are signed, it would be expensive to break them. In general, then, NCFR conference sites are set for the next several years. Sites are chosen based on a number of criteria. NCFR staff and the conference coordinator, Cindy Winter, have an extensive questionnaire and guidelines for choosing a conference city.

Another important motivation is to keep conference costs reasonable for attendees,

something that we hear often is important to our members. NCFR also tries to contract with the same hotel chain in each site city, because that gives NCFR better rates for longer periods of time. Perhaps most importantly, conference site selection is primarily an executive office function rather than a Board function, falling into the domain of Cindy Winter's and Michael Benjamin's responsibilities. That said, NCFR is in a good position to negotiate with conference hotel personnel to meet the needs of our members, and your concerns can be considered as future sites are selected.

Thank you for allowing me to tie up some loose ends in this month's column. I look forward to hearing from you at any time.

*Pam Monroe*  
NCFR President  
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**Robert M. Milardo, Ph.D.**, Professor of Family Relations, University of Maine. Dr. Bob Milardo's research and writing has contributed important research designs and theoretical insights in the areas of relationship development, the role of social networks in the functioning of close relationships, domestic violence,

*Fellows Chosen continued on page 18*



## Executive Review

# Public Policy on the March!

*"There's no present like the time!"*

- John de Graaf

It never ceases to amaze me: the annual conference is always the source of so much creativity and inspiration. We all head home with new ideas for our own development and for our organization. Conference Director Cindy Winter has frequently remarked that each year she will see two or three NCFR members lingering over lunch at the hotel restaurant. They are deep in conversation and oblivious to the din around them. Very often, the next year, she receives a conference proposal or sees a journal article published by those very colleagues. There is just no substitute for that face-to-face interaction; it's synergistic, dynamic and energizing.

The Phoenix conference was no exception. At this year's conference, a theme that has generated much new interest is the issue of work-life. Two plenary speakers—Phyllis Moen and Shelley MacDermid—shared their research around the issues of work-life, with recommendations for public policy action. Moen has coined the term "the Career Mystique" as the "taken-for-granted rules, roles and regimes around work." She explained that the career ladder is structured largely as if it is assumed that we all have someone at home fulltime, managing our non-work lives. Of course most workers today have no back-up at home—and, as Professor Moen said—"there's little prospect of that returning, ever."

The Career Mystique defines family needs as a private matter. The assumption is that if you're overwhelmed, it's because you need "balance"—or that there's something wrong with you, not the system. In other words, we need to change the notion that family concerns are private troubles and make them public issues. Following Dr. Moen's comments, Dr. Shelley MacDermid spoke on work-life issues as well. She noted that "telecommuting" is a frequent workplace solution to address the issue of "flexibility." But

she asked the audience to think about the implications of always being reachable. Dr. MacDermid said that a good way to determine who has control over our lives is to ask ourselves "Who has my cell phone number?"

Shelley MacDermid also left all of us with a challenge: to make work-life research, practice and public policy a new area of focus for NCFR. She urged us to use our rich resources to become change agents for this cause that would benefit all families. Although our mission is educational and not advocacy in nature, there is one exception: our mission is to advocate for the use of evidence-based research in making policy to enhance family well-being.

There are many legislators interested in this area who could benefit from NCFR's research as they formulate public policy. And there are many organizations involved solely in this area with whom we could offer assistance or engage in collaborative efforts. Once such work-life organization is Take Back Your Time at [www.timeday.org](http://www.timeday.org). The National Coordinator of Take Back Your Time, John de Graaf, edited a book by the same name that was instrumental in determining in part our workplace policies for the staff at NCFR. Other organizations include the Alliance for Work-Life Progress at <http://www.awlp.org/> and the "9 to 5" organization at <http://www.9to5.org/> just to name a few.

As NCFR moves into 2006, I would like your feedback and ideas about how NCFR

might move this and other public policy efforts ahead. Due to budget constraints, a change in our fiscal year, and reduced membership (more about membership over the next few months), we will not conduct the public policy conference this year. However, this does not diminish the need for NCFR to continue to play an important role in the public policy arena. To that end, I suggest we take Shelley MacDermid's challenge; that NCFR, as an organization, focus on work-life issues for 2006. Through several years of NCFR Work - Life Summits, active NCFR affiliates throughout the nation, our energized public policy committee and of course all of you, we now have a national network of contacts to disseminate our work.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Washington Representative, Margaret Feldman, for her tireless work on behalf of NCFR, including her role as author of our "Report from Washington" column. Margaret has retired from her second career as NCFR's Washington Voice and has returned to Ithaca, NY. Margaret will be missed by friends and colleagues both here and in Washington, but not forgotten! In lieu of our "Report from Washington," NCFR public policy enthusiast, Nancy Gonzalez, will pen a column keeping us apprised of NCFR policy developments.

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ON THE NET



# CFLE Directions

## A “Tipping Point” for Family Life Education



**M**alcolm Gladwell’s bestseller, *The Tipping Point. How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, is flying off the shelves. This innovative book describes the process whereby societal changes or new ideas struggle along in fits and starts until the ideas get a foothold and reach a “Tipping Point.” It’s at this unpredictable fulcrum that changes seemingly begin to generate their own momentum. Gladwell’s follow-up bestseller, *Blink*, examines human intuition, “rapid cognition” and the potential value of a hunch.

Opinion leaders, futurists, CEOs have all been combing through these books, eager

to find any clues as to how they can use Gladwell’s work to induce societal transformation or push their business, organization or profession to a new level. I read the Tipping Point specifically with the profession of family life education in mind.

In *The Tipping Point*, Gladwell talks about creating “positive epidemics.” Epidemics share three characteristics: 1) Contagiousness, 2) the fact that little changes can have big effects and 3) the fact that change happens not gradually but at one dramatic moment. The Tipping Point is that “magic moment when an idea, trend or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.”

I wanted to find out how we can create the tipping point for family life education. Is there something we can do that will make the term ‘family life education’ widely known and recognized? How can we make parenting education or relationship classes as commonplace as Pilates™ or book groups? How can we get funding agencies to understand the value of investing in prevention?

Gladwell cites trends such as Hush Puppies™ shoes and the success of Sesame Street™ to clarify how just a few small events or actions can push something over the edge. Who doesn’t recognize the Hush Puppies Bassett Hound and Big Bird? According to Gladwell, “the possibility of sudden change is at the center of the idea of the Tipping Point – big changes occurring as a result of small events.”

Those of us working in family life education have been quietly plugging away for over 20 years. We’ve developed curriculum content and collectively established common standards for practice. There are currently over 1,300 active CFLEs in the world. But as I’ve stated numerous times in the past, the Certified Family Life Educator program is not an end in itself. It is simply a tool for promoting the effective practice of family life education. Our ultimate goal as family life educators is not to get more people certified; it is to increase the awareness of family life education so that we can ultimately reach and strengthen more families.

The CFLE program can continue on its current path, steadily adding to the number of CFLEs and adding to our list of approved college and university programs. But how can we make the field explode? How can we make every legislator look at a social problem and think “How can we prevent this?” What if every federal

### CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

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

#### Alabama

Kathryn Lettieri

#### Arkansas

Traci Dobyns  
Bonita Osmon

#### California

Ying Kuan \*  
Wyann Vaughn \*

#### Colorado

Patricia White

#### Florida

Kathleen Jean-Charles  
Jan Legg  
Carole Staigle  
Anita Torrence

#### Georgia

Robert Griffin

#### Iowa

Dawn Hough \*

#### Kansas

Sarah Jones

#### Kentucky

Tamera Thomas \*

#### Louisiana

Koryon Jones \*

#### Maine

Louise Kirkland

#### Michigan

Susan Bennett \*  
Robert Cody \*  
Thomas Green \*  
Catherine Jacobs \*

Eugene Jones \*

Patty Lesch

Abby Neil \*

John O’Connell \*

Alana Sredzinski \*

#### Minnesota

Michael Jerpbak

#### Mississippi

Jennifer Brown  
Tempa Clark \*

#### Nebraska

Angel Nichols

#### Ohio

Jessica Buckland \*  
Alicia Cannon \*  
Rachel Davis  
Sarah Mc Cully

#### Oklahoma

Deborah Ihrig

#### Oregon

Carole Randall-Stitt \*

#### Pennsylvania

Christina Genchur

#### South Dakota

Emily Chapman

#### Texas

Vicki Helton  
Lee Paul

#### Canada

Tara Jordan \*  
Dianna Yip \*

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## CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 6*

and philanthropic grant application required a Family Impact Statement signed by a CFLE? In your own career, instead of bringing your certificate to job interviews and explaining its value to employers, imagine a world in which employers were recruiting *you*? Imagine a want-ad that read “only CFLEs need apply?” **HOW DO WE DO THIS?**

We’ve already got some “small events” underway. One of them is simply asking all CFLEs to include the initials “CFLE” after their name in correspondence and documents. If every CFLE used these initials on business cards, letterhead, vitae or resumes, think of the number of people who would be exposed to the letters **CFLE**. When posting a position, why not add “CFLE preferred?” Many people may not know what it means, but you can bet they will ask when they see it for the second or third time. Gladwell also talks about the value of word-of-mouth advertising. The person-to-person “contagion” builds the momentum.

I’ve written before about how, in a way, television and the media are providing family life education under the guise of

shows like *Super Nanny* or *Nanny 911*. These are “reality” shows that unrealistically show people miraculously turning their family life around within a matter of a week by following the advice of a visiting “nanny.” While the shows provide a limited repertoire of parenting solutions and skim over too many of the details behind what is really needed to make major changes in parenting behavior, it does at least introduce the public to the concept that many parenting problems can be alleviated by simply understanding child development and applying some basic, tried and true techniques. Even shows like *Trading Spouses*, while not including any type of “expert,” can be educational simply by showing the differences between one family and another in how they keep house, make decisions, set limits, spend money, and talk to each other. Perhaps these types of TV shows, along with articles-in-print and websites offering advice on money management, parenting, relationships, etc., are slowly exposing the public to the idea that education can help you lead a happier and healthier life.

Gladwell identifies key players in creating the tipping point. He calls them *Connectors*, *Mavens* and *Salesmen*. *Connectors* are the people who know everyone and possess special gifts for bringing the world together. A *Maven* is someone who “accumulates knowledge and who has information on a lot of different products or prices or places.” *Salesmen* are the select group of people with the skills to persuade us when we are unconvinced of what we are hearing.

Family Life Education needs a Connector; someone like Dr. Phil who has introduced millions of people to some of the basic concepts behind family life education. The tipping point could be having someone (preferably a CFLE!) appear on the Dr. Phil show and talk about this novel idea of teaching parents how to parent and couples how to communicate; about how to teach families to manage their money and make good decisions. Dr. Phil has been doing this all along, but maybe it needs a name, an identity and the recognition that there are people out there trained specifically in this field! Or maybe Dr. Phil is the *Salesman* and we need to find the *Connector*.

Has anyone played the “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon” party game? It’s based on the “Six Degrees of Separation” theory; that anyone on earth can be connected to any other person on the planet through a chain of acquaintances that has no more than five intermediaries. Some CFLE must know someone—who knows someone—who lives next door to one of Dr. Phil or Oprah’s producers. There must be one of you who knows a celebrity whose name evokes “families.” Anyone know Shirley Jones, Florence Henderson or Felicia Rashad? Anyone out there know Kevin Bacon? He’s connected to everyone!

Until we get a celebrity spokesperson, it all depends on us. Are you a Maven, Connector or a Salesman? Paraphrasing the sentiment of one CFLE at the conference in Phoenix: It’s time we become ambassadors for the field. And if you don’t have CFLE on your business card, you know what to do!

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

### University of Connecticut School of Family Studies Faculty Position

The School of Family Studies at the University of Connecticut seeks to hire a full-time, tenure track Assistant Professor in its COAAMFTE accredited graduate program (MA and PhD) in Marriage and Family Therapy. The School of Family Studies is an interdisciplinary social and behavioral science unit with a large undergraduate program, strong graduate and professional programs, and distinguished outreach and service.

Minimum Requirements: Ph.D. or equivalent in Marriage and Family Therapy, Family Studies, Psychology, or a related discipline, with AAMFT Approved Supervisor or Supervisor-in-Training designation; record or promise of outstanding scholarship focused on marital and family dynamics, diversity, clinical research, or related areas; evidence of commitment to integrative professional teaching; experience with a variety of clinical populations; and experience or promise in securing external funding.

Duties are expected to begin August 2006. Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, representative publications, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three potential referees to: Dean Charles M. Super, School of Family Studies, University of Connecticut, *Search MFT*, 348 Mansfield Road, Unit 2058, Storrs, CT 06269-2058. Screening of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.



# Annual Conference



**“The More I Know, the More Questions I Have”**

## Come to the 2006 Conference to Learn Answers to Unanswered Questions in Family Science

There are important lessons that we learn in life:

- The more we know, the more we discover the less we know
- We must never stop learning – if we think we know everything we are ineffective as family professionals

The 2006 NCFR Annual Conference has the most interesting theme: *“Unanswered Questions in Marriage and Family Science.”* Bill Allen, Program Chair, invites family professionals to come to Minneapolis with an “inquiring” mind as we try to find some answers to some of the most challenging questions.

Inquiring Minds Want to Know! There are a few “answerable” questions; Allow me to begin by answering the question “What are the benefits of attending the 2006 annual conference?”

- Become more actively involved in a professional organization focused on family issues. Earn those CEUs needed for certifications and licensures.
- Present your work at a nationally-acclaimed professional conference – great for your CV or resume!
- Save on travel costs! The conference is within driving distance of many

Midwestern states, and in the center of the country.

- Save on lodging! Hotel rates at the Hyatt Regency are more affordable than last year. (By \$27 a night!)
- Meet and greet treasured colleagues and renew those friendships. Hear leaders in the family science field share their knowledge. Discuss your work with them. (Attendees often begin collaborative work based on interactions with colleagues at national conferences).
- Create a dialogue between researchers and practitioners – practitioners need research to develop a high-quality practice – and researchers need practitioners to bring research to families and to report back with results from the front lines. Conference sessions will give an opportunity for this important dialogue.
- Discuss your ideas for a new book with a publisher. Some previous conference attendees have met with publishers that led to the publication of a new book.
- Enjoy the beautiful Land of 10,000 Lakes. Take advantage of the local museums, theatres and cultural events, including the nation’s largest indoor shopping venue: The Mall of America.

Check the NCFR websites for up-to-date information about the conference: [http://www.ncfr.org/conference\\_info/index.asp](http://www.ncfr.org/conference_info/index.asp)

Any “unanswered questions?” Please call or email me anytime at [cindy@ncfr.org](mailto:cindy@ncfr.org) or toll-free phone: 888-781-9331, ext. 15.

Cindy Winter, CMP  
Conference Director

Bill Allen  
2006 Program Chair  
E-mail: [ballen@umn.edu](mailto:ballen@umn.edu)

### Paul C. Glick 1910-2006

Paul C. Glick, 95, died in Tempe, Arizona on January 19, 2006 after a brief illness. He led an active and fulfilling life. His career as a social scientist, which spanned seven decades, was one of enormous achievement and contribution. Fifteen years ago a symposium was held at Arizona State University to honor Paul on his 80th birthday and to recognize his extraordinary contributions to the field of marriage and family sociology and demography. Speakers at the symposium included Graham Spanier, Arland Thornton, Suzanne Bianchi, Larry Bumpass, and Arthur Norton. Each speaker in turn reflected upon Paul’s invaluable legacy to the social sciences.

Paul was extolled as a dedicated public servant; a man who created a true research environment at the Bureau of the Census. He attracted young scholars to the arena of marriage and family studies, and was an inspiration to those who know the importance of translating complex data sets into useful and understandable information about important trends, thereby reaching the widest audience

possible. After listening to those reflections, which accurately summarized his impact on so many of us, Paul, in his usual self-effacing way, remarked that all the hyperbole was unwarranted. I think not.

Paul’s personal bibliography contains a vast wealth of books, papers, and lectures. His awards have been many—including the Department of Commerce’s Gold Medal; its highest award for achievement by an individual employee. Beyond these recognitions, perhaps Paul’s most lasting contribution to his profession was that he was the driving force behind the development of concepts and strategies governing the processing, presentation, and analyses of data on marriage, families, households, and living arrangements—nearly all of which are still in use throughout the social science community.

Paul loved life, his family, and his work. He was a genial and sensitive man without malice toward others. Those of us who were privileged to be among his colleagues and friends have been most fortunate.

A. Norton—January 23, 2006





# Affiliate Connection

## Association of Councils Update

The AOC business meeting held in Phoenix during the National Council on Family Relations annual conference was lively! First of all, we met outdoors under the warm Arizona sun. Whenever a Minnesotan gets to enjoy warm sunshine in November with no jacket or sweater, it is a GREAT day.

The elected AOC president wears two hats; she serves on the NCFR Board of Directors as a representative of AOC. The position is a voting position and requires convening monthly meetings, keeping up with emails, monitoring reports, and sitting on other councils, such as the elections council. This is a fantastic learning opportunity. At the same time the AOC president holds monthly or bi-monthly business meetings with the AOC board members and affiliates.

Former AOC Presidents and wise NCFR staff members are aware of the demands of these dual responsibilities. During my first years as your AOC President, I was on brand new territory with great enthusiasm and eager to learn. I was not fully aware of the time involved and how to integrate my new responsibilities into my work and family life.

The annual AOC board meeting addressed this very issue and moved unanimously to change the By-laws for AOC offices. In this proposed future structure, the newly elected AOC President-elect would serve on the NCFR board for two years and then serve the as AOC President for the following two years. This allows the President of AOC to have greater knowledge about the operations of NCFR and the Carver Model of governance. After two years as

President-elect the individual will be president of AOC and be able to devote exclusive time and energy into leading AOC. Then, every two years a President-elect to AOC would be on the NCFR ballot.

The By-law changes now need to go to the full membership of NCFR for a vote. Please watch for your ballot and cast your vote!

A stronger more viable AOC helps us make statements for a stronger NCFR. We in the Family Education field need individuals in business, research, medicine, practice and new fields to join this exemplary professional organization.

Best regards to each of you.

Marcie J. Brooke CFLE  
President, Association of Councils  
E-mail: [Marcie.Brooke@spps.org](mailto:Marcie.Brooke@spps.org)

## Oklahoma Council Announces Conference

The annual conference of the Oklahoma Council on Family Relations (OCFR) will be held on Friday, March 31, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the University of Central Oklahoma's High Center in Edmond, OK.

The event theme is *Families: An Emerging Story*. The conference theme was selected to allow participants the ability to explore the historical and evolving stories of families and family relationships. Additionally, the theme was selected to be

broad enough to capture a variety of topics relating to families of all forms and family members at any age or stage. The topics will cover societal and structural changes, truths and myths, trends and projections, and implications for research, policy, and practice.

## Texas Council on Family Relations

The Texas Council on Family Relations' Annual Conference will be held March 30th - April 1st in Lubbock, TX. The theme will be "*International Families: Family in the Global Community*." The schedule has been planned to accommodate those traveling from a distance. The President's Reception will be Thursday evening, March 30 and the program sessions will be concentrated on Friday, March 31. Special events for students, including a trip to Lubbock's Depot District, graduate school fair, and employment fair, are planned for Friday evening and Saturday! Miriam Muslow, Vice-President for Programs, has planned an exciting program that has something for

everyone! The big sky and clean, fresh air are wonderful. Please join us in Lubbock!

Two long-awaited projects have recently come to fruition - a new brochure and an online newsletter! TCFR is pleased to have an updated color brochure to help spread the word about the organization. TCFR's first on-line newsletter was published in January. The Board is excited about the expanded options-photographs, color, calendars, announcements, and others yet to be discovered.

Jo Ann Engelbrecht  
President, TCFR  
E-mail:

The conference is open to students, instructors, researchers, service providers, practitioners, clergy, and advocates who are interested in family relationships and family well-being. Featured speakers and session presenters will highlight research, education, practice, and policy that have implications for families and interpersonal relationships throughout the life span.

The opening keynote speaker is Stephanie Coontz. Stephanie Coontz teaches history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and is Director of Research and Public Education for the Council on Contemporary Families, which she chaired from 2001-04. She is the author of *Marriage, A History: From Obedience to Intimacy, or How Love*

*Oklahoma Council continued on page 10*



## Section News

### Attention: Students and New Professionals

# The Feminism and Family Studies Section Announces 2006 Awards Applications

**Deadline: April 1st, 2006**

The Feminism and Family Studies Section of the National Council on Family Relations is seeking applicants for TWO awards to be given at the November 2006 NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN. Applicants do not need to be members of NCFR, but we welcome new members to our section and organization.

The Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective is given in honor of Jessie Bernard. Graduate students and new professionals (with up to five years post-doctoral work) are encouraged to apply for this award of \$750 to fund feminist research. Proposals will be reviewed for their potential contribution to feminist scholarship about families and the use of

feminist frameworks and methods. Applications should include: a) an abstract of 100 words or fewer; b) a five page (maximum) proposal outlining the project's purpose, theoretical foundation, research methods, and potential contribution to feminist scholarship; c) a reference list, and d) a half-page budget. A summary of the recipients' research results will be published in the Feminism and Family Studies Section Newsletter, and the recipient will be asked to present a report of their project and findings at the 2007 NCFR Annual Conference. The award will be presented at the 2006 meeting; recipients will receive \$350 towards their travel.

The Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award is accompanied by a gift of complimentary books and a \$250 cash award. Applications for this

award are open to all graduate students and new professionals (with up to five years post-doctoral work). Papers should contribute to feminist scholarship about families and the use of feminist frameworks and methods, and should be accompanied by an abstract of not more than 150 words. Applicants should be the sole author or first author of the paper; both published and unpublished papers will be considered, although the paper should be at near-submission status. A summary of the paper will be published in the Feminism and Family Studies Section Newsletter, and the award will be presented at the 2006 NCFR Annual Conference. Recipients will receive \$350 towards their travel to the conference.

Authors should identify themselves only in a cover letter so that all entries can be reviewed anonymously - all identifying references should be removed from the paper or proposal submissions. In a cover letter, applicants should indicate whether they are currently a graduate student or when they received their Ph.D. The cover letter should also include the address(es), telephone number(s), and email address(es) of all authors. Letters of support are not required. Only one submission per category will be accepted from any applicant. To apply, send four hard copies and one electronic copy (MS Word attachment) of the proposal or paper by April 1st to:

*Aine Humble, Ph.D.*  
Chair, FFSS Awards Committee  
Email: [aine.humble@msvu.ca](mailto:aine.humble@msvu.ca)

## OKLAHOMA COUNCIL *continued from page 9*

Conquered Marriage, (Viking Press, 2005), The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap (1992 and 2000, Basic Books), The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families (Basic Books, 1997), and The Social Origins of Private Life: A History of American Families. She also edited American Families: A Multicultural Reader (Routledge, 1999). In addition to the opening keynote, she will speak in the afternoon at a second presentation about marriage (i.e., history/future of love & marriage, etc.).

Tim Tingle will serve as the luncheon keynote speaker. Tim Tingle is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. A powerful conference speaker and popular festival performer, Tingle was featured at the 2002 National Storytelling Festival. In March of 2003, he completed his tenth tour of Germany for the U.S Department of Defense, performing at schools for children of military

personnel. He has performed as a featured storyteller in festivals covering a thirty-state area, and in 2004 was a Teller-In-Residence at the International Storytelling Center. He will provide a variety of tales and stories for us related to families while we dine.

In addition to these exciting keynotes, the schedule includes a variety of workshops and paper sessions. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Certified Family Life Educators, and Certified Family and Consumer Sciences. Registration information will be available soon on our website. Join us at the conference.

OCFR is a state affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations. For conference information, or to learn more about OCFR, visit [www.okcfr.org](http://www.okcfr.org).

*Nicole Holman-Alexander*  
E-mail: [nh-alexander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nh-alexander@sbcglobal.net)

### Upcoming Topics for Family Focus section

June 2006 – Families and Work-Life (deadline April 3)

September 2006 – Families and Disabilities (deadline July 3)

December 2006 – Families and the Future (deadline October 3)

# Paper and Poster Award Winners Announced

## AAMFT Section-NCFR Annual Conference 2005

Joey A. Fronheiser (Paper Award Winner),  
Oklahoma State University

*Coping Behaviors and Marital Satisfaction in  
Survivors of Breast Cancer and Their Partners*

This study utilized the Revised Ways of Coping Checklist to examine differences in coping behaviors of women diagnosed with breast cancer and their husbands. In addition, the relationship between wives and husbands coping with the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and marital satisfaction and marital dissolution is

explored. A cross sectional design was used to obtain 175 questionnaires in which at least one member of the couple responded. The mean age for the men and women who responded was 59.3 and 58.1 years, respectively. At the time of completing the survey the mean average since diagnosis was 10.5 years. Statistically significant differences were found in relation to (a) gender differences in the use of coping, (b) partner coping and marital satisfaction, and (c) satisfaction with partner coping and marital dissolu-

tion. Implications for family therapists and practitioners are suggested.

Francesca Maria Pernice-Duca (Poster Award Winner), Michigan State University  
*Social Networks and Recovery from Mental Illness*

Adequate social network support has been associated with positive health and psychosocial outcomes. Individuals living with chronic and persistent mental illness often have small and restricted social

*Winners Announced continued on page 12*

## Family Policy Section

**T**he Family Policy Section is 30 Years Old! The section began as "Family Action" in the early 1970s and Bylaws for that group were drawn up in 1976. Please come to section celebrations at the 2006 Annual Meeting to mark this important birthday. Watch your program and the listserv for updates.

The Family Policy section has a tradition of presenting timely, scholarly information about current public policy issues at the NCFR annual meetings. In addition, the section offers applied information educators and practitioners can use with

their students and in their work with policy makers and the public. At the annual meeting in November, it was clear that this section continues to be on the pulse of policy changes in the U.S. The presentations in 2005 were timely, informative, and relevant to our work.

The 2006 program will cover other, emerging topics and ongoing issues in family policy, such as poverty and welfare reform, long-term care, workplace policies, and disaster recovery. Please let us know who you are and what your interests are by joining the family policy

section or communicating with any of the officers: Suzanna Smith (chair), [sdsmith@ufl.edu](mailto:sdsmith@ufl.edu); Jackie Kirby-Wilkins (chair elect), [intellisolve@zoominternet.net](mailto:intellisolve@zoominternet.net); Denise Donnelly (sec/treas), [socdad@gsu.edu](mailto:socdad@gsu.edu); and Christine Pegarro-Schull (SNP rep), [christineschull@aol.com](mailto:christineschull@aol.com) and Debra Berke (past chair), [debralberke@aol.com](mailto:debralberke@aol.com).

We want to hear from you.

*Suzanna Smith  
Chair, Family Policy Section  
E-mail: [sdsmith@ufl.edu](mailto:sdsmith@ufl.edu)*

## Family and Health Section

As section chair, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Family and Health Section as well as other members of NCFR who supported our symposia (2), special sessions (3), roundtables (5), paper sessions (6), and posters (20) as well as the pre-conference workshop at the 67th annual conference held in Phoenix in November of 2005. Thank you is also in order for the session recorders, moderators, and discussants, as well as the Family and Health Section officers: Sharon Denham (Chair elect), Christine Price (Secretary/Treasurer), and Jennifer Hardesty (Student/New Professional).

This November we awarded our section young professional award (\$200) to

Jeffrey Jackson for his paper entitled *Parental Adaptation to Placement of a Child with Developmental Disabilities*. Jeffery's faculty advisor was Susanne Olsen. I also wanted to let you know that a syllabi packet is available titled "*Families and Violence: Syllabi and Instruction Materials*" edited by Jennifer Hardesty, Ph.D., CFLE for \$25. Packet includes syllabi, lesson plans, assignments, book/media resources. Order by contacting Jennifer Hardesty at [hardesty@uiuc.edu](mailto:hardesty@uiuc.edu).

Plans for next year's conference are well on their way. The theme is *Unanswered Questions in Marriage and Family Science*, and will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Family and Health Section plans on sponsoring/co-sponsoring one

and perhaps two special sessions. I am convinced the sessions we are planning will be excellent, and I encourage you to be sure and look for more specific information about our special sessions in the next *NCFR Report*. Please consider submitting an abstract to the Family and Health Section for a roundtable, paper session, poster, or symposium, if you think your work/project is congruent with our mission (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).

Barbara Mandleco  
Chair, Family and Health Section



# The Continuing Dialogue Between Research and Practice

Convened by Bill Allen (2006 Program Chair), Jane Gilgun (2005), and Pamela Monroe (incoming NCFR President)

**Present:** Pamela Choice, Kyle Kostelicky, Maxine Hammonds Smith, Edith Lewis, Marilyn Flick, Kathy Greaves, JoLynn Cunningham, Tia Schultz, Jane Lanigan, Martin McDonald, Lynette Olson, Steve Marks, Mary Jo Czaplowski

The following is a recap of the main ideas and proposed follow-up from the Special Session entitled “The Continuing Dialogue Between Research and Practice” held on Saturday afternoon (Nov. 19th) at the 2005 Annual Conference in Phoenix.

### 1) “What is the value of bridging research and practice?”

There was a lot of discussion on this including examination of the need for better definitions of the terms “research” and “practice”. Participants felt there needed to be more dialogue between individuals and teams who see themselves working in one or the other of these two spheres of family science.

### 2) The Proposal Process:

- Participants liked many of the current and proposed changes made in the Call for Proposals. However, some still found the process too complicated and

too long. Some also found the wording unclear in places. Two participants indicated that the 2006 “Revised” Call for Proposals would probably still not encourage submissions from practicing educators (esp. at the secondary level).

- A possible solution might be to include in the Call for Proposals brief examples of effective (successful) submissions including examples for each format. There was also discussion of publishing examples of proposals that effectively showcase “Best Practices” or “Bridging the Gap” presentations.

### 3) Strategies for encouraging effective “bridging”:

- Breaking down artificial barriers: Eliminate the walls between researchers and practitioners with the organization and at the conference. The Program Committee could take the lead in fostering a climate of collaboration between NCFR members regardless of their vocation or professional setting. This includes avoiding structural and scheduling barriers to cross-functional interaction (having all research sessions at the beginning of the conference and all practice at the end).
- Encouraging alternative professional “role-taking:” How can we help theorists

see the “practitioner” within themselves? (“How would I use this finding in my teaching?”) Alternatively, practitioners might consider how they could help shape research and theoretical questions. (“What do I need to better understand to be more effective with this family?” or “What does my work on this family issue suggest might be a common pattern?”)

- The possibility of “Bridging the Gap” presentations: Allowing scholarly dialogue between researchers or theorists and practitioners. These could be presented within the currently available conference formats, or in new adaptations of these that permit increased interaction whether between presenters or between presenters and audience. Suggestions emphasized a collaborative team approach. One way to do this is to combine researchers and practitioners intentionally in the same paper presentations, asking both to be cognizant of their works’ implications for each other.
- Research and Practice Updates: Some wanted to know what had become of “RUPs”? There was general consensus that the Research Updates for Practitioners (or RUPS) might be

*Dialogue continued on page 13*

## WINNERS ANNOUNCED

*continued from page 11*

networks. This study examined the relationship between measures of social network support and recovery from chronic and severe mental illness in a sample of 221 psychosocial clubhouse members. The data collected included a measure of one’s personal network which asked participants to enumerate up to 12 sources of support. The results revealed that perceived reciprocity between family, friends, and others listed on the network was more predictive of the recovery process. The implications of this research for marriage and family therapists include

helping families and individuals to reframe their role as a passive recipient of support to an active provider.

Ronald Blake Cox (Poster Award Winner), Michigan State University

*Fragile to Formidable: A Pilot Study Intervention for Low-Income Families*

This study looked at unique cultural barriers to the formation of enduring relationships for so-called Fragile Families. Additionally, a quasi-experimental design that employed a MANOVA procedure

and a Chi-square goodness of fit test was used to test the effectiveness of a systems-based psycho-educational intervention in aiding low-income couples to step toward: 1) a more permanent relationship, and 2) more effective co-parenting strategies. Findings from this pilot study suggest that the intervention program successfully addresses several of the unique barriers to marriage formation experienced by low-income couples. Based on these results, implications for MFTs working with this particular population were presented.



an effective method of promoting “bridging.” It was noted that such sessions need to focus on information that could be useful to practitioners (using theoretical and methodological information primarily as foundation for practice-oriented presentations). RUPs should also allow time for audience interaction/participation. Some participants expressed their perception that “...being lectured-to is not acceptable anymore...” RUP should also be easily identified in the program, and perhaps part of larger “practitioner tracks” (although there was concern expressed that this not further divide researchers and practitioners).

A suggestion was made to institute Practice Updates for Researchers (or PURS) as a way of generating practice-based questions and exploration of family phenomena. The focus here might be on what practitioners are

currently doing or trying to do. Where and how might further research be done on what they are doing? (It is from the trenches that researchers get their research impetus.) Some of the Focus Groups within NCFR might be good sources of such information.

- More effective use of discussants.

There was general agreement that discussants could be used strategically to incorporate practice elements in paper sessions. It was also agreed that additional time for presenter – audience interaction was preferable to a weakly constructed “discussion.”

- Encourage presenter – audience interaction.

Most of the participants felt that greater audience participation in sessions could foster cross-functional collaboration. This might take the form of simply ensuring sufficient time for Q and A

after a paper session or symposium. Another approach might be to ask presenters to pose intriguing questions that emerge from their findings to the audience as a prelude to discussion. Still another idea was to adjust the current poster session format by scheduling the sessions in smaller, less hectic spaces that promote presenter-viewer interaction. There might also be sessions that pull together several posters and provide structured time for cross-poster interaction between all participants.

#### 4) Possible plans for implementing session suggestions:

- Communicating an organizational focus on “bridging” and its benefits to NCFR. This might include a column on this topic in the NCFR Report (see below).
- Adding a list of people, on the website or zippy, who are willing to collaborate with a researcher on a paper.
- Using “practice-focused” discussants in research oriented paper sessions.
- Reviewing the current coding system describing conference sessions (e.g., “R” and “B”) There may be a need to help practitioners better navigate the conference program.
- Further defining the spectrum of practice within the family field.
- Creating a new award to honor superior “bridging” presentations at the conference and/or efforts within NCFR.

#### Conclusion:

The session participants agreed that NCFR should continue to solicit opinions from the membership regarding how best to bridge the research and practice functions as well as other aspects of our field. We are particularly interested in learning which sessions from recent conferences exemplified successful bridging, and why.

As mentioned previously, it was suggested that a new section of the NCFR Report be devoted to dialogue on bridging research and practice, defining practice, etc.. Edie Lewis, Jane Lanigan, and Tia Schultz volunteered to help develop this idea. We hope to have this feature in future issues of the Report.

*Submitted by Mary Jo Czaplewski*

Do you teach Family Life Education or design FLE curricula? This “must-have” publication is a collection of over 40 syllabi covering all of NCFR’s 10 content areas for the CFLE, plus syllabi for related family courses and electives. A rich resource, full of content ideas, class activities, suggested readings, grading criteria and more.

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### Teaching Family Life Education: A Syllabus Collection



EDITORS  
Michael Walcheski, PhD, CFLE  
Nancy Gonzalez, MEd, CFLE  
PUBLISHED BY  
National Council on Family Relations

## Teaching Family Life Education: A Syllabus Collection



# Report from Minneapolis

## Public Policy: Your Money or Your Life

**G**reetings from NCFR! This issue of *Report's Family Focus* spotlights Family and Public Policy—a topic close to my heart. In addition to editing *Report*, I oversee part of the CFLE program and also help administer NCFR's public policy efforts. Family Policy is one of the outlets in which NCFR's membership can work to change lives. Our Fact Sheets and Policy Briefs and our contacts with legislators at the federal and state levels provide policy-makers with vital information on families.

One of the ways in which NCFR can change lives is to offer legislators our foresight as to the potential unintended consequences of any legislation. Our own NCFR publication, *Public Policy through a Family Lens*, provides a framework to use in evaluating legislative proposals in Congress—or even rules in your own community. It helps us question the status quo and avert bad policy before it's enacted.

For example, at an elementary school library, do overdue books result in fines and stern reminders from the librarian? What's the intent and what are possible outcomes? The policy creates an incentive for children to return books. But does it foster an incentive to read? At the national level, public policy guides every decision we make. We often just shrug and accept our fate, not realizing that laws are made by human beings—humans who can be fallible or ill-informed. Sometimes policies seem really quite arbitrary! But far from generating an amusing day on C-SPAN, each policy can change lives, for better or worse.

An acquaintance of mine, a homemaker, was married to an insensitive jerk who brought home a healthy income. What wasn't healthy was her marriage. Along about year eight, she was miserable. However, she stayed in that marriage two more years. Why? Because with the Social Security system, passing your

10th anniversary has a special meaning for homemakers; at retirement, you get to choose your benefit level based on either your own lifetime earnings or those of your spouse. Leaving in year eight has huge repercussions. Imagine the more drastic implications she would face if she were in a violent relationship? "Let's see—do I hang in there two more years for 30% more money? Or will he kill me within two years, making retirement a moot point anyway?"

On the advice of my dentist, I have to channel my frustration into action or risk grinding all the enamel off my teeth. Are you concerned about public policy and its impact on families? Call or email me. I can tell you how to get involved in NCFR's efforts and show you how to follow the hottest think tank opinions and pending Congressional legislation. Your dentist will thank you!

Nancy Gonzalez, M.Ed., CFLE  
Managing Editor

## Family Well-Being: It's Our Policy

**A** question I hear from time to time is "How do I find out what's going on in family policy?" How can I refresh my 9th grade civics lessons and brush-up on the legislative process? How does one not only hear about pending legislation or laws that have been passed; how do you even know what's out there percolating in the environment?

Usually, except in cases of a late-breaking national crisis requiring immediate Congressional action, the ideas that turn up in legislative proposals begin in the nation's think tanks, research organizations (us!), grass roots groups, and special interest organizations. Let's say you're interested in knowing which issues might be on the docket in the next legislative session. Or maybe you're curious as to what themes may form the scaffolding for each of the party platforms in the 2008 Presidential election. No need to call a psychic hotline. Most of these ideas are already out there in the ether.

To get you started, I'd like to share some of my sources for official legislative information. I'll also like to share my favorite sources for the complete breadth of other political information; from non-partisan fact-based sources to well-reasoned thought pieces to ideologically-driven agendas. I don't have time to cover the

free-for-all called the Blogosphere, but sometimes web-logs can be useful too. Bloggers are often an early-warning system for opinion and for identifying concerns of individuals and families.

*Disclaimer: Most of the following websites and sources of information are partisan or represent ideologies and opinions outside the scope of NCFR's mission. Their inclusion does not constitute any endorsement by NCFR. However, I list them because even non-partisan public policy professionals and family scientists in independent organizations like NCFR need to be aware of the entire political landscape in order to know what concerns the American people. Some of the sources I list do not align with my personal views and there will be ones that don't align with yours. In fact, I will include one or more that require me to begin deep breathing exercises and go to my "happy place." As an NCFR professional, I take off my "Party Hat" and set-aside my role as private citizen to provide you with portals to a breadth of political information.*

First—the official source of pending Congressional legislative information and the record of bills that have made it into law is at the Library of Congress at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. Another great source of non-partisan, "Just the facts,

*Family Well-Being continued on page 15*



## FAMILY WELL-BEING *continued from page 14*

Ma'am" information is C-SPAN. And you don't have to watch TV all day to benefit from it. C-SPAN recently started their "Capital News" website at <http://www.capitalnews.org/>. Unlike the other C-SPAN websites, Capital News lists the late-breaking events from DC. And I mean late-breaking! When C-SPAN launched Capital News a few weeks ago, I was a bit dubious as to how useful it would be. I wasn't sure they would have the resources to be as timely as the CNN, Fox or MSNBC websites. Now I'm a believer. They are doing a great job of providing up-to-the-minute news reports.

Then there is C-SPAN TV. In my opinion, C-SPAN's reporting is about as non-biased as you will find. On C-SPAN each morning, host Brian Lamb or one of his colleagues take out the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal or another major newspaper and read portions of their editorials to viewers. Then they invite callers to phone-in their reactions. If you want to hear what the nation is thinking, tune in.

On weekends, on C-SPAN 2, Saturday and Sundays are a book-lovers' smorgasbord on "Book-TV." The authors of recently published books talk about their work and then field questions from an audience. Programs usually last an hour or more, so that the author and the audience have time to delve into some detail. The frustrating problem with other sources of authors' TV interviews is that there's a 7 minute slot for discussion and then we're off to a commercial. There's an old saying that the best education is to "hang around smart people." On Book TV, school's in session.

To refresh your memory on the legislative process, go to <http://www.rules.house.gov/> and click on "How Congress Works."

This site from the House of Representatives will bring you up to speed. Now for the spectrum of websites—in keeping with written English, let's read from left to right.

<http://www.moveon.org> is a source of progressive, left-of-center thought. As of January 2006, their front page hot issues were "holding Exxon accountable," "getting out of Iraq" and protecting the privacy of our telephone calls.

[www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org) The Center for American Progress is a non-partisan organization, but they weigh-in on the liberal side. As of January 2006, their focus included NSA wiretaps, energy policy and tax reform.

[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org) is the website of the Democratic National Committee.

[www.newamerica.net](http://www.newamerica.net) is the URL for a fascinating Think Tank—the New America Foundation. If there is a centrist, dead-center political organization, this is it. New America's mission is to take the best ideas from the left and the best ideas from the right and try to locate some middle ground. If you're sick of bi-partisan bickering and governmental gridlock, check it out.

[www.aei.org](http://www.aei.org) The American Enterprise Institute bills itself as non-profit and non-partisan, but it leans right, working to further "limited government, private enterprise, individual liberty and responsibility, and a vigilant and effective defense."

[www.rnc.org](http://www.rnc.org) is the website for the Republican National Committee.

[www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org) is the home for the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Think Tank on the right. As of January 2006, issues front and center on the Heritage homepage include "moral renewal," the war on terror, and getting entitlements under control.

[www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org) The Cato Institute, as a political animal, is a duck-billed platypus. It's hard to classify as purely right or left... it's Libertarian. As of January 2006, their wishlist included "limited government" but they also take an isolationist view of foreign policy and might agree with "move-on dot org" with regard to getting out of Iraq.

Finally, a couple more major Think Tanks that NCFR policy wonks should check out regularly are the Brookings Institution [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu) and RAND at [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org). Both of these organizations do a pretty good job of providing objective analyses most of the time. What both of these organizations have in abundance are resources. These research giants are huge, with the ability to tackle massive projects outside the scope of smaller Think Tanks.

My vote for really useful scrappy little underdog? [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org) Fact check is a division of the Annenberg Public Policy site out of the University of Pennsylvania. At fact check, their researchers pick one fact or statistical claim promulgated by a politician. They analyze it to death and check it out. Then they lay-out what they discovered in excruciating detail and in an unbiased way, in my opinion. Sometimes the "fact" was true. Sometimes it's half-truth. And sometimes it apparently was beamed-in from the Planet Wambeeno. Unfortunately, they don't have the staff to analyze every fact uttered on Capitol Hill. But they do make an effort to investigate the loudest claims from both sides of the aisle.

And finally—if you're in the mood for some political humor, tune in week-nights to Comedy Central's "Daily Show" and its spin-off "The Colbert Report" at 8 and 8:30 pm, Eastern, respectively. While not appropriate for youth or sensitive adults, these cable programs are run-away hits, purportedly capturing a big chunk of the 18 – 49 year old viewing demographic. Although the satire is arguably left-leaning, they make fun of everyone. Guests have included Nancy Pelosi, John McCain, George Stephanopoulos and L. Paul Bremer. Again—no value judgments here—if you want to know what makes Genny X and Millennial voters laugh, tune in. It's one more piece of data for the alert public policy enthusiast to use in evaluating the pulse of the nation.

NCFR offers members many outlets for public policy work. We need authors for Fact Sheets and Policy Briefs. We need Family Policy section participants and committee members for the Public Policy committee. And remember, outside of your NCFR work, you're still a taxpayer and a citizen—a particularly informed one. Members of Congress have legislative aides who read each constituent letter and scan all of the Letters to the Editor in the home district newspapers. Get involved! Quoting Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

*Nancy Gonzalez, M.Ed., CFLE  
NCFR public policy staffer*



*Pictured in back row: Jacob Priest, Christine Mau, Darcy Gregg-Advisor, Dr. Charlesworth-Dept Chair. In the front row: Laura Prickett, Jennifer Stockberger-CFSSA Chair, Michelle Davis. Not pictured: Heidi Hubbard, Rachel Favero, Michael Martinez, Erin Larsen, Cydnee Howe, Daniel Hubler, Dr. Merrill-NCFR advisor and Natalie Thornock-past CFSSA Chair.*

## **Weber State Students Win Crystal Crest Organization of the Year Award**

**O**n April 30, 2005 the Child and Family Studies Student Association of Weber State University, Ogden, UT won the Crystal Crest Organization of the Year Award. This honor is awarded to a registered student organization focused on social and special interest programs and/or activities that has significantly influenced the positive growth of its individual members, enhanced the campus, and provided contributions to the community in such a way as to represent the best WSU students have to offer.

The main goal of CFSSA is to increase awareness of family issues. It is also the intent of the student organization to enhance community, state and nationwide recognition of the Child and Family Studies Department, the Moyes College of Education, and Weber State University. This venue has given the students of WSU an opportunity to participate and contribute to WSU and the community.

CFSSA hosts two Open Houses each semester when they invite local professionals to talk with students regarding their careers. In February of each year, CFSSA hosts a Career Roundtable inviting several professionals from the Ogden community to share with students as well. Other activities include; two community services projects each semester, two fundraising projects each semester to raise funds for students to participate in the National Council on Family Relations and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Student Socials, and the publication and distribution of the CFSSA Newsletter.

The strength of CFSSA is their active participation in campus activities. The strong support they receive from the department faculty and staff adds to their strength as an association. They have dedicated officers who are very involved in planning and organizing association activities, and are active in other student organizations and community agencies. They truly enhance the image of Weber State University and the community around them.

*Submitted by Darcy Gregg, Advisor*



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  - Harville Hendrix - IMAGO Connects**
  - Michele Weiner-Davis - Divorce Busting Programs**
  - David Olson - PREPARE/ENRICH**
  - Emerson Eggerichs - Love & Respect**
  - Frank Pittman - Men and Marriage**
  - John Covey - 8 Habits of Highly Successful Marriage**
  - Bill Doherty - Marriage-Friendly Therapy**
  - John Van Epp - How to Avoid Marrying A Jerk**
  - Lori Gordon - PAIRS • Terry Hargrave - Essential Humility**
  - William Fals-Stewart - Learning Sobriety Together**
  - Muhammad & Slack - The Black Marriage Curriculum**
  - Steven Beach & Frank Fincham - Adding Prayer**
  - Barry McCarthy - Rekindling Desire**
  - McManus - Marriage Savers • Parrott - Marriage Mentors**
  - Scott Haltzman - Secrets of Happily Married Men**
  - Sherod Miller - Couple Communication**
  - Steve Stosny - You Don't Have to Take It, Anymore**
  - Heitler - Power of Two • Phelan - 1, 2, 3 Magic!**
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## Unanswered Questions in Marriage and Family Science



### Keynote Speaker

**Professor Alvin Poussaint**, Director, Media Center, Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA; Professor of Psychiatry and Faculty; Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, MA

### Plenary Sessions (partial list)

***The Third Parent: What Do We Know - and what do we need to know about the role popular media plays in family process?*** - **Dr. David Walsh**, founder of the MediaWise Movement, a program of the National Institute on Media and the Family.

***After "I Do...": New Frontiers in Marriage and Relationship Education.*** a panel discussion with several pioneers in relational assessment and therapy including **Lorraine Blackman, David Olson, and Scott Stanley**

***"Just When We Thought We Were Finished..."*** The ramifications of the increasing childrearing obligations of grandparents.



### Special Activities

- ◆ **"Munchin' With the Elders"** – Opportunities for students and newer professionals to meet and learn from more senior researchers and clinicians. Look for specific times and locations.
- ◆ **"On Our Shoulders"**: Panel discussion on improving the prospects for males of color in families.
- ◆ **Research Update for Professionals (RUPs)**



For further information contact NCFR - Toll-free: 888-781-9331 E-mail: [cindy@ncfr.org](mailto:cindy@ncfr.org);  
Website: [www.ncfr.org/conference\\_info/index.asp](http://www.ncfr.org/conference_info/index.asp)



## FELLOWS CHOSEN *continued from page 4*

and the role of uncles in family life. Dr. Milardo has contributed greatly to the development of the field through his own research and as an editor or co-editor of volumes that have either brought together the work of others in a specific area (*Families and Social Networks*, 1988) or that provide major reviews of literatures in a variety of areas (*Handbook of Personal Relationships*, 1997; *Family as Relationships*, 2000). Bob has been involved in NCFR for over twenty-five years and has been an active contributor to the organization in various roles from the beginning. He served as Chair of the Research and Theory section and was also involved in the establishment of the Feminism and Family Studies Section. He has also been on the Board of Directors, has chaired the Reuben Hill Award committee, and has been an active member of the Publication Committee (both during and after his *JMF* editorship). Bob Milardo began a twelve-year term on the editorial board of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* in 1983. He was editor of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* from 1996-2001, a period of important growth and change for the journal. In his capacity as editor, he developed and carried out a plan to expand the issue in 2000 to include a special set of broad papers addressing the general progress of the field in the twentieth century. The result was a set of papers, which are expected to become classics, and are published as *The Decade in Review: Understanding Families into the Next Millennium*.

**M. Duncan Stanton, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Spalding University, and NIH/NIAAA Principal Investigator,

The Morton Center, Louisville, KY, is the pioneer in the study of family treatment for drug abuse. His early work shocked the field when he found that drug-abusing adults generally are closely



tied to their families. He developed the first effective family treatment for substance abuse and has obtained an amazing number of federal grants to carry on this work. His ARISE program for getting substance abusers and their families into treatment is considered the best evidence-based model in the field. Dr. Stanton is also a community and public policy activist as well. This work began during the Vietnam war when he urged Congress to examine drug abuse problems among soldiers and has continued into the HIV/AIDS era and the growing problems in our health care system (the subject of Dr. Stanton's latest book). The breadth of his work ranges from the smallest of clinical intervention techniques to treatment and policy issues related to a major health problem and now to ways to reshape the health care system. He has authored over 150 publications in this and related fields. He has co-authored the most widely used textbook in the field called: *The Family Therapy of Drug Abuse and Addiction*. He co-authored the most comprehensive meta-analysis of couple and family therapy for drug abuse and recently completed a review of outcome studies on this topic for JMFT. Duke Stanton has been an active member of NCFR since 1974, where he has presented several times and has also served as a reviewer for *Family Relations* for ten years. He is a Legacy Circle member since 1999. He gave the Plenary address about families with a drug abusing member in 1988. He also received both the Award of Appreciation and Certificate of Recognition in 1988 for longstanding service. Duke Stanton was also the consultant to the White House Office of Drug Abuse Policy from 1977-81.

**Stephan M. Wilson, Ph.D.**, CFLE, Professor and Chair Human Development and Family Studies at the University of

Nevada, Reno. Over the course of his 30-year career in family science, Dr. Wilson promoted the well being of families through scholarship, teaching, service/consulting, and administration in two countries and eight states. Stephan has distinguished himself as an adolescence and Appalachian scholar with a focus on cross-cultural parent-youth relationships. Recently his work has been expanded in the international arena to include research projects in China and Fulbright work in Kenya. Throughout his career Dr. Wilson provided professional and leadership services at the community, state, regional, national and international levels. His work has been recognized through honors, awards, and commendations for excellence and impact. Dr. Wilson's scholarship has resulted in over 85 publications including 39 articles in national and international journals, including *JMF* and *Family Relations*, 16-refereed chapters in edited books, and 31 other publications.



He has presented and published 70 abstracts or conference proceedings from national and international professional meetings, 75 regional, state, and local meetings, he has been interviewed

or has consulted with media 50 times, and provided consulting for agency, community, state, regional, national, and international bodies. In addition, Dr. Wilson has had many leadership and support roles in NCFR (i.e., Events Committee for the UN International Year of the Family 10th Anniversary, Chair of the International Program Match Committee, Chair of the International Section, Delegate for NCFR Public Policy and Education Committee, Annual Program Committee, Secretary/Treasurer for the International and Family Science Sections, Presidential Task Force on Focus Groups, Co-Chair of the Rural Families Focus Group, Representative to the National Caucus of Administrators of Family Units, International Year of the Family Events Committee, and Reviewer/Presider/Recorder/Presenter for various annual meetings).

*Submitted by Estella A. Martinez*

### **NCFR wants to know!**

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**Thank you!**

# Resources for Empowering Families



## **Strengthening Your Stepfamily**

Elizabeth Einstein, M.A., MFT and Linda Albert, Ph.D.

Softcover: \$17.95/272 pages

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One of three Americans is now a member of a stepfamily. This book offers expert advice to help stepfamilies: overcome unrealistic expectations, build effective communication, and includes "stepfamily workshops," playful cartoons, resources and more.

## **Time for a Better Marriage: Training in Marriage Enrichment**

Jon Carlson, Psy.D. and Don Dinkmeyer, Sr., Ph.D.

Softcover: \$15.95/144 pages

Provides tools to help make marriage more rewarding, effective and satisfying. Shows couples how to encourage each other, resolve conflict, communicate.

## **Calming the Family Storm**

### **Anger Management for Moms, Dads, and All the Kids**

Gary D. McKay, Ph.D. and Steven A. Maybell, Ph.D.

Softcover: \$15.95/320 pages

*Calming the Family Storm* is a powerful resource for families dealing with anger issues. Provides helpful aids for more effective expression of anger for entire family.

### **Parent Group Handbook for Calming the Family Storm**

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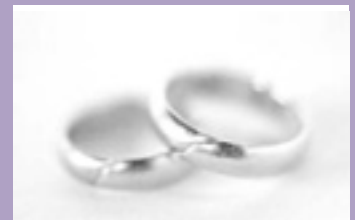
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# CALENDAR

## March 31, 2006

Oklahoma Council on Family Relations (OCFR) Conference, Edmond OK . [www.okcfr.org](http://www.okcfr.org).

## April 2006

Public Policy conference cancelled.

### **FYI: Future Conference Locations!**

- 2006 - Minneapolis, MN
- 2007 - Pittsburgh, PA
- 2008 - Little Rock, AR
- 2009 - San Francisco, CA
- 2010 - Minneapolis, MN
- 2011 - Orlando, FL

## May 31 – June 3, 2006

The 5th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences (HICSS) in Honolulu (Oahu) [www.hicsocial.org](http://www.hicsocial.org).

## June 1 - 3, 2006

Family Science Association Conference, Park City, Utah. Theme: Technology and Teaching Family Science <http://www3.wcu.edu>.

## June 22 – 25, 2006

Smart Marriages, Atlanta, GA. See ad on page 16. [www.smartmarriages.com](http://www.smartmarriages.com).

## November 7 – 11, 2006

The 68th NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



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