

Report

September 2006

Volume 51:3



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Family Focus on...

Special Needs and Disabilities

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Disabilities—acute and chronic, visible and hidden—are a fact of life for a significant number of American families. According to a July 19 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, 51.2 million—or 18% of the population—have some level of disability.

In this issue, we explore how individuals of all ages and their families deal with disabilities on a daily basis, and we look at systems that support their efforts.

Next Issue:
Families and the Future

So...when do we sleep?

The 2006 NCFR Annual Conference

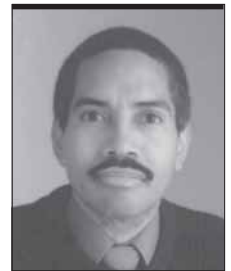
In early July, Cindy Winter and I sat down to review the current status of this year's program for the 2006 NCFR Annual Conference before it went to the printer. Our initial reaction was "Gosh, this is great! What a full program!" But almost as quickly as we'd said that, we said to ourselves, "Omigosh! What a full program! How are people going to be able to decide what to do??!?" This year's Conference is chock full of thought-provoking plenaries, intriguing panel discussions, and stimulating workshops. And that is before we get to the great paper and poster sessions that all of us have come to expect.

I'd like to take a few moments to talk about some of what you will see at this year's get-together. I've included some new strategies we have adopted to engage some of our family field colleagues (e.g., practitioners) who may have passed up the NCFR Conference in the past. These strategies and changes are *evolutionary*, rather than revolutionary. But if continued over the next few conferences, they should have the effect of improving the quality of individual sessions (and submitted proposals) as well as encouraging greater participation of family field practitioners. Both of these represent goals the NCFR membership has discussed and advocated for the past few years. Let's start with

the structure of the program.

This year, many of the plenary sessions are in the form of panels rather than presentations by a single speaker. Our aim is to facilitate more interaction between invited guests, and (just as important) more interaction between the "experts up front" and the "experts in the house." I have encouraged all of our plenary speakers and panelists to develop unanswered questions that relate to their presentations which can be posed to the audience, to facilitate this interactive process. We will also make a concerted effort to leave enough time in each session for meaningful "Q & A." Our hope is that this will happen in paper sessions and symposiums, as well.

Speaking of paper sessions, one of the ideas that emerged from the groups discussing annual conference session quality last year was to try to use discussants more effectively by having them build on the presented papers (as opposed to presenting



William D. Allen,
2006 Program Chair

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something new, but unrelated). This idea coincided nicely with discussions from groups strategizing ways to encourage greater participation of practitioners. One way to ensure that practitioners might find something of value in every paper session could be to use the discussion to explicitly address practical (e.g., clinical) applications of the topics presented in a theoretical or research session. Some of you do this already, but we are going to

make a more direct request for discussants, presiders, and others facilitating sessions this year to implement this strategy.

Of course, this means it will be more important than ever for paper presenters to get their manuscripts to facilitators early so that the latter can formulate meaningful questions for both presenters and the audience. Even a detailed draft received in August or September is better than a “completed” manuscript rushed to the discussant in late October when there is little time to prepare a cogent synthesis of the session. It is crucial that presenters think of themselves as members of team rather than individual performers. The most memorable sessions at conferences demonstrate prior collaboration between presenters. This can only happen when there has been communication more than five minutes before the session.

You may have heard that there is a new way for researchers and practitioners to share ideas and information. A number of years ago, research updates for practitioners, or RUPS, were developed to bring current research findings to the attention of educators and practitioners. This year we plan to introduce a reciprocal format that will showcase the practical application of previous research findings for the benefit of researchers and theorists seeking to refine their approaches. These practitioner updates for researchers (PURs) continue NCFR’s tradition of bridging the gaps between theory, research, and practice.

I mentioned earlier that this year’s conference program is full of interesting sessions and opportunities for professional development. But that doesn’t mean 2006 will be “all work and no play.” The Local Arrangements Committee is hard at work compiling a list of places to see

and things to do in the Twin Cities, as well as great places to relax and have a good meal. As in the past, we hope to provide conference attendees with a good appreciation of what makes this year’s venue special in terms of its rich arts and cultural offerings. We’ll also help you figure out more mundane but important matters such as how to catch up on your e-mail and where to get some exercise without having to take out a mortgage.

There are two things I’d urge conference goers to do in the next few days. If you haven’t already done so: 1) make and confirm your travel plans, and 2) make a personal conference plan. With airline fuel prices rising, the old strategy of waiting until the last minute to buy your ticket may not be as advantageous as before. Most of you would be better off locking in a (hopefully lower) ticket now, than watching fares slowly rise with the price of crude oil. You may also find that as airlines seek to pack more passengers into each departing aircraft, waiting until the last minute may mean you cannot get to the Twin Cities (or return home) when you need to.

And with so much to do, you really need to have a personal plan for this year’s conference. The plan should include what sessions you want to attend, which meetings you *have* to attend, whom you want to see, and when you can take a break from the action. If I can guarantee anything, it is that you will experience that “How can I be in two places?” feeling more than once this November. This is especially true for those of you involved in more than one section. Having a plan will help avoid that “stressed out” feeling that can put the dampers on an otherwise productive conference experience.

Finally, remember this is your conference, from the first pre-conference workshops

until the final focus group meeting ends. This professional fellowship will be a success if you are there to add your voice and insights. Whether you are a student or an educator, a new

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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.

President: Pam Monroe
Managing Editor: Nancy Gonzalez
Editorial Consultant: Nancy Giguere

How to Contribute to the NCFR Report: The NCFR Report is member-written and articles are encouraged! Articles accepted for publication will be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on 1) relevance to the Family Focus theme, or 2) brevity due to space limitations, 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. **NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion.** Deadlines for all submissions for upcoming issues are: December 2006 – October 3, March 2007 – January 3, June 2007 – April 3. Send submissions to: Nancy Gonzalez at nancy@ncfr.org. For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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President's Report

Board Addresses Full Agenda

I am writing to you just a few short days after the mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors. This June meeting was especially intense with a full agenda, primarily because the Board did not meet in person in April, as is usually the case. Now, let me get right to some important matters.

The retirement of NCFR's Executive Director, Mr. Michael Benjamin, just prior to the start of the Board's meeting on the afternoon of June 26, was a surprise to all of us. Mr. Benjamin's wife also retired recently and we wish them both many happy and full years enjoying the fruits of productive careers.

My message to you is this: the Board moved very quickly to ensure the stability of NCFR in the short term and is making plans now for an even stronger organization over the years to come. Let me give some examples: the Board was assisted in its work at the summer meeting by three senior staff members, Ms. Dawn Cassidy, Mr. John Pepper, and Ms. Jeanne Strand. Together, this team was able to provide the Board with information and support so that the entire agenda of the summer meeting was completed, including all of our budgetary and financial obligations.

At one time or another during our three days in Minneapolis, we visited with most of the rest of NCFR staff and mutually

assured one another of our commitment to NCFR. Next, the Board had in-person meetings with the ancillary professionals who assist NCFR, namely a partner from our audit firm, and with our attorney for personnel matters. With their assistance we were able to insure that NCFR's financial and staffing situations are very secure during this transitional period.

Finally, we were able to secure the services of an outstanding consultant, Ms. Linda Tacke, who will assist NCFR for the next several months. Essentially, we will work with Ms. Tacke via a series of defined, short term contracts (for now, I am assuming that there might well be at least two such contracts). When Ms. Tacke steps in as interim Executive Director in late July, her first order of business (in addition to overseeing day-to-day operations) will be to conduct a full organizational audit. Although she is not authorized to hire or discharge staff or to make any major solo decisions regarding NCFR operations, she will take a close and thorough look at NCFR top to bottom and will work with the Board to identify areas of strengths and challenges. This will position us, then, to conduct an informed and thoughtful search for NCFR's next Executive Director. I encourage you to read the article elsewhere in this issue of REPORT about Linda Tacke and visit her website so that you will

share the Board's enthusiasm for the great opportunity to work with this highly regarded professional.

In other news (as they say!)... the Board established an audit committee this Spring to assist us with more careful and thorough monitoring of our financial practices and conditions. That committee consists of our President-elect, Dr. Maxine Hammonds-Smith; the Board member and treasurer, Dr. Deborah Gentry; staff member and finance officer, Mr. John Pepper, and – I am particularly pleased to tell you – Dr. Jan Hogan as an at-large member of the committee. Dr. Hogan has a sterling reputation and long service to NCFR, most notably as a past president and we are honored to enjoy her services once again.

After long and careful consideration (and reconsideration) the Board approved in principle the development of a third journal focused on family theory development and reviews of research and practice in family science and related areas. I use the phrase "in principle" here only to indicate that while there is still a great deal of work to be done both from the conceptual angle and the business angle before the journal is launched, the Board is committed to working with all parties to see the journal come to life. Let me also assure you that this new initiative will be launched in a context that is ever-mindful of the great value and respected positions of our two current journals and that nothing will be done to harm either *Journal of Marriage and Family* or *Family Relations*.

Finally, the Board had a chance to meet with Cindy Winter to review the annual conference program and to develop more fully the conference sessions for which the Board is responsible. After that meeting, I went through the program line by line and could only respond with awe at the program put together by Bill Allen, Section chairs, Cindy Winter, and you,

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE *continued from page 2*

professional or a veteran, a researcher or a practitioner, a newcomer or a retiree, plan to come to Minneapolis for this year's conference. Cindy, the Program Committee, the entire NCFR Staff and I will do everything in our power to ensure that you head home energized with a renewed sense of dedication to learning about and supporting families.

Although this is the last NCFR Report article you will see before the big date, Cindy and I will keep you abreast of all

2006 Annual Conference developments through the NCFR ZIPPY News, so be sure to read it regularly. If you can think of additional ideas or suggestions to make this year's conference a success, please don't hesitate to suggest them to either Cindy Winter (763 781-9331 or cwinter@ncfr.org) or me (612 701-3813 or ballen@umn.edu).

See you in November!

*William D. Allen, Program Chair
2006 NCFR Annual Conference*

Ruth Jewson Award Winner Announced

Marta McClintock-Comeaux will receive NCFR's 2006 Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award for the best family studies dissertation proposal submitted by a doctoral candidate.

The award—a plaque and \$2500 to support the proposed study, Female Doctoral Students' Family and Academic Department Experience and Their Relationships to Career Choices—will be presented at the NCFR annual conference in Minneapolis. McClintock-Comeaux is a doctoral student in the Department of Family Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her adviser is Professor Elaine A. Anderson.

The Ruth Jewson Award competition occurs every other year, honoring the late Ruth H. Jewson who was NCFR's second and longest-serving Executive Director. McClintock-Comeaux proposed to study

female doctoral students who are cohabiting, married, divorced, widowed, or single with children. She will explore factors that might influence the choices of these women concerning whether to enter the pool of tenure track faculty and, if they do, their choice of institutional type.

Feminist and role theories provide conceptual models and research questions for her work. Respondents will be administered measures examining family and academic experiences related to the following; work and family (with a focus on career salience), family structure, social support at the family and department level, the presence of a faculty role model successfully balancing work and family, and perceived work/family conflicts.

Congratulations to Marta McClintock-Comeaux for winning this prestigious award!



NCFR Donations

The following persons have contributed donations since April 1, 2006. Their generosity aids NCFR in continuing its programs and awards.

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For more information on making a contribution to our general fund or to one of our special scholarships or awards, contact NCFR toll free at 1-888-781-9331 or write info@ncfr.org

Managing Transitions: Introducing Linda Tacke

At the June 2006 Board Meeting, the NCFR Board selected an organizational consultant, Linda Tacke of Leadership Tactics, to serve as NCFR's interim Executive Director. She will be with NCFR approximately 4 months as she learns about the organization and advises the Board on how to build on NCFR's strengths as we make important decisions in the months ahead.

Ms. Tacke's specialty is acting as a "guest leader." In her own words, Ms. Tacke sees organizational change as "a time to embrace history and mission, explore identity and future options, renew linkages, address critical system changes, and commit to a new direction and new leadership." She has worked with several Twin Cities area non-profits, offering organizational analysis and providing acting leadership during times of organizational transitions. In addition, Ms. Tacke specializes in operational assessment and planning, interim management, and assisting organizations in executive searches.

Ms. Tacke holds a MBA from the University of South Dakota. Before she established her entrepreneurial pursuits, she worked at General Mills and Target Corporation. To see her website, a list of prior clientele and testimonials, and for more information on her expertise, please visit www.leadership-tactics.com. Welcome Linda Tacke to the NCFR family!

Vote Early and Often

Important Reminder to all travelers who will attend the November conference in Minneapolis. Election Day—**Tuesday November 7th**—falls during the annual conference this year. If you will be in Minneapolis from out-of-town, be sure to check your election procedures at home and arrange to vote by absentee ballot. Every vote counts!



2006 Arcus Award Recipient Named

Dr. Joan Comeau, CFLE

The Margaret E. Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award, established in 2003, recognizes

family life education scholars and practitioners for their significant contributions. Dr. Joan Comeau, CFLE, the 2006 recipient, is widely recognized for her promotion of excellence and scholarship in family life education. According to colleague Betty Cooke, University of Minnesota, "Her work exemplified the kind of work valued by Margaret Arcus that is intended to be recognized through this award."

Cooke goes on to state, "I do not know of anyone more qualified for and deserving of this award than Joan Comeau. Joan has devoted her entire professional life to promoting excellence and scholarship in family life education." Comeau is founder and president of Family Information Services, an organization that offers resources and professional development for anyone who works with, or teaches about, parenting and family life. Her work for the past 30 years has focused on human development and family education: teaching family and consumer sciences at the secondary level; counseling and providing parent/family education in a community mental health center; and staff training in parent and family education for family educators, counselors, social workers, clergy and nurses.

Comeau is the recipient of several other awards including recognition for Outstanding Service to the Certified Family Life Educator Program of NCFR as well as the 1997 National Parents' Day Coalition Phoenix Award for "excellence in developing and implementing a program that creates awareness about the need for responsible parenting and parental involvement in the child's development." She was recognized by the University of Minnesota's College of Human Ecology as one of the Century's 100 Outstanding Friends & Alumni. Comeau was named Parent Educator of the Year by the Texas-based Practical Parent Education Program, and has also been recognized by the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers. In addition, she has received the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award given by the Minnesota Council on Family Relations.

Prior to establishing Family Information Services, Comeau co-founded the Vocational Education Work and Family Institute, developing a national replication program to train family educators in 20 states to design and deliver Work and Family Seminars at the worksite. She co-authored a two volume curricula and developed, coordinated and/or edited many other curricula and resource materials and professional development conferences. Cooke states that these "... activities at this crucial time in the evolution of parent and family education helped shape the field in Minnesota and

beyond. . . Joan's work in this area was foundational to important work that continues today in efforts to reach more working parents at their worksites."

Since 1989, she has planned and edited 17 volumes of the Family Information Services professional development program, working with over a hundred guest faculty and serving hundreds of professionals each year. In 2003 she designed and spearheaded the transition of Family Information Services to a fully functional and searchable online database of Annual and Special Collections containing both professional development and ready-to-use curriculum materials for parent and family educators. Family Information Services has been utilized by thousands of individuals, organizations, colleges/universities and military systems worldwide. Since going online, Family Information Services is also available via IP Address Range that makes it possible for every student at a college or university to have access through their school's virtual library.

Highly regarded among practitioners and theoreticians alike, through Family Information Services, Comeau provides a truly unique service. Parent Educator and author Jean Illsley Clarke describes it as "... the only support of its kind available to family practitioners across the nation and beyond." Illsley Clarke goes on to suggest that Comeau has been a bridge builder between sound theory and research and practitioners.

Illsley Clarke describes Comeau's contribution in this way, "Some people are good at conceptualizing new ways to help families. Other people are good at creating innovative ways to deliver programs. Joan Comeau is good at both."

Comeau will receive the Margaret E. Arcus Outstanding Family Life Educator Award and give a presentation Thursday, November 9th during the 2006 National Council on Family Relations Annual Meeting in Minneapolis.

Submitted by
Lynette J. Olson, CFLE - E&E Chair

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ON THE NET



CFLE Directions

Volunteers Needed for Family Reporting in Your State



At NCFR, family policy news usually breaks at the federal level. However, we often forget that much of the legislation that affects families is formulated in the States. Marriage, divorce, adoption, and education law, for example, are almost exclusively relegated to state jurisdiction.

As your national professional organization, we would like to know what is happening at the state and local level. When we know these happenings at NCFR Headquarters, we can report back to the membership, alerting you to trends and developments to watch for in your state. We can also point you to resources—such as our research, our Fact Sheets and our Policy

Briefs—that you can deliver to policy-makers to ensure that their decisions are informed by solid research. However, in order to do this, we need someone in each of the 50 states keeping an eye on legislative developments.

CFLEs on our listserv have no doubt seen a call for volunteers to track legislation in their state. We have many volunteers, but there are some states that still lack a CFLE watchdog. State legislation is important—potentially ushering-in dramatic changes for family policy. By educating policy-makers about the possible benefits or the potential unintended consequences of legislation, we can bring our research into your state Capitol.

Just out of curiosity, we decided to make a brief check on some recent state legislative proposals. In our hallway in the NCFR office, we have a big U.S. map. Our public policy staffer, Nancy Gonzalez, stood in front of it, covered her eyes, turned around and aimed her finger at the map to locate three random states. In her own very unscientific game of “pin the tail on the state house,” she selected California, West Virginia, and Missouri. She looked up legislative doings in these states and found that there is some interesting activity underway. None of these proposals is law yet... but this is the phase in law-making that matters most. This is the time when family scientists can make policymakers aware of the family implications for their proposals.

California is working on legislation to define those who may practice in child abuse prevention programs; specifically the bill proposes that Marriage and Family Therapists be added to the list of approved providers. (Does this have implications for CFLEs someday? If it is a “prevention” program, might CFLEs serve in this capacity?) Also in California, there is a bill pending that would require professionals working with pre and postnatal moms to provide information about post-partum depression.

In West Virginia, we found a “joint resolution” from their legislature commissioning a study of possible expansion of in-home family education programs. This resolution specifically lists “parent education” in its definition. In Missouri, there is proposed legislation that would further refine the mandatory reporting requirements for those working with vulnerable adults.

Monitoring state legislation needs a state resident. Someone who lives in the culture and reads the local papers can track this

CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATORS

Following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated since April 15, 2006. (* - Provisional)

Alabama Taylor Cox *	Maryland Candace Place Kimberly Van Putten-Gardner	New York Susan Toliver	Dianne McCall * Angela Nievar Lindsay Reeves * Crystal Reisig * Sharon Sternes * Cynthia Stumph *
Arkansas Brenna Tucker *	Michigan Karen Aube * Tonya Back * Marcellus Bradley * Sandra Bump * Amy Carlevato * Chandra Jones * Dana Minor * Donelle Raab Michelle Schafer * Dawn Welch *	Ohio Jennifer Fimple * Ebony Hogan * Susan Maxymiv Mary Olesh	Utah Spencer Kohler *
California Brian Donovan * Gary Malone Kathleen Ramos	Minnesota Teresa Kruger *	Oklahoma Ashley Savage *	Virginia Cynthia Cohen * Soyoung Lee Sarah Reymer *
Connecticut Torai Sanghavi	Mississippi Patricia Martin * Peggy Scott * Sheri Worthy	Oregon Steven Bobo * Alicia Horneman *	Wisconsin Jami Kaiser Paula Reif * Kahla Sparish *
Florida Patricia Cicetti Jacqueline VanBommel	Montana Miranda Rae *	Pennsylvania Sarah McDonald *	Canada Janice Dinsmore-Czechowsky
Illinois Bernadette Collins		Tennessee Laran Lofton * Kathy Smith	
Kansas Alisha Hardman * Stacy Hemmy * C.R. Macchi		Texas Kimberly Dauman * Andrea Ewing Reynelda Felder * Kimberly Hunt *	

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Affiliate Connection

Association of Councils Update

The Association of Councils Executive Board has been diligently working on the AOC Pre-conference Program. Kathleen Gilbert, Program Chair, has put together what promises to be a great pre-conference.

Marcie Brooke and Beth Quist will present information on the integrations of work and family issues in the world of 24/7 touch points! NCFR staff member Nancy Gonzalez, who has completed the US Department of Homeland Security's Community Emergency Response Team training, will present information on family preparedness. All members of

affiliate councils, their advisors, and individuals contemplating or wishing they had an affiliate council in their state are encouraged to attend.

This past June, I had the privilege of meeting in Winter Garden, Florida to help Carol Rubino begin a new Florida Council on Family Relations. If you are in Florida and know someone living in Florida who is in the Family Life Field, please ask them to contact me.

AOC still is in need of a student representative to finish out this current term. The deadline for choosing the next student rep is September 15, 2006. This is an

excellent way to learn more about the AOCs and gain leadership skills in the National Council on Family Relations.

This year's national conference, under the leadership of Dr. Bill Allen, promises to be the best NCFR annual conference! Many special events and speakers are on the agenda. This conference spans nearly a week – November 7-11 – with pre-conferences and programming through Saturday, offers the very best research and best practices for anyone and everyone working in the Family Life Field. Your professional career can only

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CFLE DIRECTIONS *continued from page 6*

information best. The Gulf Coast region and legislation resulting from the hurricane devastation is best interpreted by someone on the ground. Similarly, here in Minnesota, heat assistance subsidies for low-income households are crucial—but this is not likely a concern in Miami! Most importantly, legislators listen to their constituents; nothing beats the voice of the voter.

State legislative action is now available on the web in every state. To access your state's bill tracking site, go to Google and type the name of your state and "legislature." (In some states, the legislature is called the "Assembly.") Forty-nine states have both a House and a Senate at the state level; the exception is Nebraska—the only state with a "unicameral" legislative body. Each state's website is a bit different, and some are easier to navigate than others. But with a little browsing around, you will locate proposed bills, their current status, and whether they have made it into law. (Most bills do not become law—but just following the trends can be very interesting!)

Making contact with a legislator is easier than you think. As a constituent, remember that your representative works for you! Send a letter or make an appointment. Many legislators also schedule public

forums to meet with constituents in a group setting. An important rule to keep in mind if you make a constituent visit or write a letter identifying yourself as an NCFR member: **You must define your message and limit your role to "education" or "informing." In order to maintain our IRS 501 (3) (C) status, NCFR is limited to bringing our research and best practices to the attention of policymakers. We can explain the latest research findings and give recommendations based on our knowledge of the possible impact that the policy would have on families.** Approaching legislators with a "Just the Facts" viewpoint demonstrates that you aren't grinding a political axe. You are disseminating objective information as a scientist or a family practitioner. Legislators are always eager to listen to information that is unbiased and based on data, not dogma.

However, outside of your role as an NCFR member, you are also a private citizen. In this capacity, without identifying yourself as an NCFR representative, you are free to take your knowledge to the next level and move into an advocacy or activist stance. As an activist, you have the ability to infuse opinion, political influence or ideology into your policy work. This

method is a good fit for passionate proponents of personal, political or faith-based perspectives.

Would you be interested in serving as NCFR's state reporter? Whether you are a seasoned policy wonk or an interested beginner, we need you! We are preparing a packet of materials to help you get started. We especially seek a representative for the following states for which, as of July 1, we did not yet have a volunteer: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Policy work is a unique role in family science. It translates the language of the Ivory Tower into the words we use around a kitchen table—or the legislative bench. It allows legislators to quiet the din of special interests and listen to the science as they make their decisions. We are building a network of state policy enthusiasts to make these connections. To volunteer to act as an NCFR contact in your state, please write to Nancy Gonzalez at nancy@ncfr.org

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

Northwest Council Conference Held in June

INGOLDSBY AWARD CONFERRED

The Northwest Council on Family Relations held their 2006 conference at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, on June 21-23. Dr. James Frideres of the University of Calgary gave a keynote address entitled "Aboriginal Families: Revenge of the Cradle" discussing the trends in First Nations populations.

The first Bron Ingoldsby Award for the best student paper submission was awarded to Michel Stewart of the University of Western Sydney. Ms. Stewart's paper "Child-to-Mother Violence: A Pilot Study" was co-authored with Drs. Lesley Wilkes, Debra Jackson, and Judy Mannix. Ms. Stewart and Dr. Wilkes travelled from Sydney, Australia to attend the conference. The \$250 award is in honor of

the late Dr. Bron Ingoldsby who was a long-time member of NWCFR. The NWCFR conference provides a great opportunity for students and new professionals to present their research and the award is designed to encourage student submissions and assist the winner in attending the conference.

We thank our conference hosts, Kim Rotstein and Don Swenson of the University of Calgary, and Kelly Dean Schwartz, of Nazarene University College. The 2008 conference will be held in Washington state.

Submitted by Sandy Bailey



(left to right) Dr. Lesley Wilkes, Michel Stewart, Dr. Sandy Bailey, NWCFR President

From Deep in the Heart of Texas: A Success Story

A North Texas Student Council on Family Relations (NTSCFR) member, Amanda Bolding, was selected to be one of the first recipients of the NTSCFR/Lawhon Scholarship in 2005. Ms. Bolding, a recent graduate of the University of North Texas, was also chosen as 1 of 4 students featured in the UNT publication, Graduation 2006. Her

picture and a review of her accomplishments were presented in the publication.

UNT in Denton, Texas has an enrollment of over 33,000 students, and more than 2,600 graduated in Spring, 2006. Her selection from such a large student body signifies the level at which she has distinguished herself during her studies at UNT and during her internship. She was

individually introduced, and her vita was reviewed for the undergraduate and graduate students and visitors in the packed auditorium during graduation ceremonies.

Amanda, a Development and Family Studies major in the College of Education, received her master's degree on May 13, 2006. Her Child Life Internship was at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. She worked with the staff and the children who had cancer by using a number of intervention techniques, traditional methods, and also innovative strategies she designed herself.

During her full-time graduate studies in Denton, she taught preschool children in the UNT Child Development Laboratory, she volunteered at Our Children's House, a children's hospital at Baylor in Dallas, and she contributed to the North Texas Student Council on Family Relations, an organization that ranges from 157 to 212 members. Congratulations to this Award's "Lone Star" for 2006!

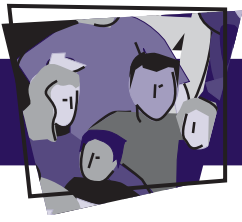
*Submitted by Tommie Lawhon
Professor and UNT NTSCFR Faculty Advisor*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 3*

the members of NCFR. I can promise you that your only complaint will be that the program is so full, so rich, and so challenging – you'll be spinning in all directions as you try to choose what to do or see next! Fortunately, you don't have to choose – you'll be able to capture the program in a variety of media. For now, take a look at the program on-line, get yourself and your students and colleagues registered, and begin planning to come early and stay late. The hotel is beautiful and well placed in a thriving downtown area, where shops, restaurants, and music abound.

For now, I hope that the rest of your summer is peaceful and that, like me, you take time for a good book, a lot of baseball, and fun with your families and friends. By the way: I started a new job in July – interim dean of the School of Social Work, still at LSU. You can always reach me in the usual way via email (pmonroe@lsu.edu) or by telephone at 225.578.1351, and I always love hearing from you.

*Pam Monroe
NCFR President*



Section News

Feminism and Family Studies Section Celebrates 20th Anniversary in Minneapolis

The 2006 NCFR conference in Minneapolis promises to be exceptional with many exciting events including the Feminism and Family Studies Section's 20th anniversary celebration! We have experienced much in our 20 years – a history we will highlight at the conference. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to honor those founding women and men “on whose shoulders we stand” as well as those who continue to bring a feminist perspective to NCFR. There are several highlights to mention including an invited lecture by Prof. Adrien K. Wing, J.D., the Bessie Dutton Murray Distinguished Professor of Law at The University of Iowa College of Law (<http://www.law.uiowa.edu/faculty/adrien-wing.php>). Her lecture entitled, *Critical Race Feminism: Race, Gender and the Law*, will take place Thursday, November 9, at 8:00 a.m. As a part of this session, three distinguished family scholars will discuss the implications of CRFT for the study of families and the advancement of theory. This session is

AFFILIATE CONNECTION

continued from page 7

be enhanced by attending the 2006 National Council on Family Relations conference in Minneapolis November 7-11, 2006.

As president of our AOC Executive Board, I wish to acknowledge the retirement of our former Executive Director, Michael Benjamin. Michael's vision helped NCFR to grow and stretch! May retirement serve him well.

*Submitted by Marcie Brooke, CFLE
MARCIE.BROOKE@spps.org*

sponsored by the FFSS, TCRM, Research and Theory, Ethnic Minority, Family Policy and International Sections of NCFR.

In addition to this special lecture, FFSS will celebrate its 20 years with a session devoted to our history that honors our founders, reflects on our past, and looks to the future. This session will occur on Wednesday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m., followed by our section business meeting.

Other important FFSS events not to be

missed include the following paper sessions: *LGBT Issues* (Wednesday, November 9, 10:45 a.m.), *Intersections of Violence and Parenting* (Thursday, November 9, 2:15 p.m.), *Partner Violence* (Friday, November 10, 3:45 p.m.), and *Muslim Family Feminism* (Saturday, November 11, 3:45 p.m.). Please join us for these sessions as we celebrate our 20th anniversary!

*Submitted by Lee Ann De Reus, Chair, FFSS
email: lad12@psu.edu*

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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EDITORS
Michael Walcheski, PhD, CFLE
Nancy Gonzalez, MEd, CFLE
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Teaching Family Life Education: A Syllabus Collection

Positions Available in HDFFS University of Missouri–Columbia

Applications are being accepted for two tenure-track positions in Human Development & Family Studies at the University of Missouri. One position is for an Assistant Professor on 9-month appointment. Duties include conducting an active program of research in any area of human development and family studies, writing grants, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, advising undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students, and participating in service. Address applications to Dr. Marilyn Coleman.

The second position is a 12-month Assistant Professor & State Extension Specialist position involving 70% Extension and 30% Research. The Extension portion is to provide expertise and leadership in the development and implementation of parent education, especially for divorcing parents and stepparents, and to support Extension county faculty who offer such programs. The research portion is to maintain an active program of research in an area related to human development and family studies. This position also involves advisement of graduate students and membership on graduate student committees. Department, campus, and professional service is also expected. Address applications to Dr. Teresa Cooney.

Applicants for both positions should have a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies or a related area at the time of appointment (August, 2007). Demonstrated research competence and potential to maintain a productive research program, including procurement of external funding and scholarly publication is also expected. Previous experience with Extension or related applied activities is preferred for the Extension position.

The Department focuses on lifespan human development and families in a variety of relational, social and cultural contexts. Faculty conducts basic and applied research with a unique investment in the applications of new knowledge on issues facing individuals and families. Our commitment to individual and family diversity in research, teaching and service distinguishes our academic and extension programs.

Visit the following for more information about the University of Missouri, Columbia (<http://www.missouri.edu/>), University of Missouri Extension (<http://extension.missouri.edu/>), and the Department of Human Development and Family Studies (<http://web.missouri.edu/~hdfswww/>).

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The University of Missouri-Columbia is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer. To request ADA accommodations contact our ADA Coordinator.

Applications will be reviewed starting October 15 and continue until suitable candidates are hired for both positions. Send application materials including a cover letter addressing qualifications, a curriculum vita, and 3 letters of reference and inquiries to Dr. Coleman or Dr. Cooney at:

University of Missouri- Columbia
314 Gentry Hall
Columbia, MO 65211-7700
Fax: 573-884-5550
CooneyT@missouri.edu or ColemanMA@missouri.edu

Call for Submissions:

December issue of NCFR Report - Focus on **Families and the Future**

Deadline October 3

We are soliciting articles for the December 2006 issue of the "Family Focus," the center pull-out section of NCFR's Report. The topic for this issue is Families and the Future.

This year's theme for the NCFR Annual Conference is "Unanswered Questions in Family Science." Building on this theme, the December issue of NCFR Report will ask and anticipate some of these questions and answers by focusing on the future. Here are some questions to get you thinking–

- Where is the field of family science headed?
- How can we make sure curricula keep pace with societal change?
- Where are the gaps in research that NCFR members should address?
- What changes in Family Policy will be needed in the years to come?
- How will the changing demographics (aging Boomers, immigration, etc) affect families?
- How will medical and technological advances affect society?
- Given the data available on the financial well-being of Medicare, Social Security, pension systems, how will families fund retirement?
- Bankruptcy laws have changed and consumer debt continues to soar. Due to financial illiteracy, what will Family Resource Management look like in the future?

This special issue-by the nature of the topic-will be unique. In addition to the typical articles based on the "known," this issue invites NCFR members to think as futurists and peek into the "unknown." As such, although articles should have a basis in current demography and prevailing scientific thought, prognostications require multidisciplinary "what if" thinking; forecasting hypothetical possibilities, extrapolating current trends out a few years and even positing a few informed speculations. Anticipating the future needs of American families can help family scientists be aware of research, practice and policy directions that might be necessary to meet these needs.

We are looking for short articles - 1000 WORDS MAXIMUM - and written in journalistic style, that is, no footnotes, endnotes or bibliographies. Articles are selected to form the best complementary assortment of commentary in the space available, giving NCFR members first priority.

If you are interested in contributing, please contact managing editor, Nancy Gonzalez (nancy@ncfr.org), and submit any articles as soon as possible but no later than the deadline, October 3, 2006.

Family and Health Section Report

The Family and Health section will sponsor a number of interesting symposia at the annual conference:

- Coping With Later Life Challenges
- Health/Wellness
- Families Raising Children with Disabilities & Chronic Conditions
- Domestic & Family Violence
- Intergenerational Relations across Cultures: Rethinking Responsibilities, Aging/Gerontology
- Communities & Families
- Adolescents
- Publishing in Family Gerontology

Six round tables, twenty-six posters, and one interactive poster session will be available:

- Service Utilization & Policy Needs of Grandparents Who Raise Grandchildren
- Interactive Use of Genograms and Ecomaps in Family Caregiving Research
- The Battle on Two Fronts: Assessing Resilience in U.S. Army Spouses
- Walking with Families Through the Journey of Alzheimer's Care
- A funny thing happened: Laughter and Humor in Family Health and Caregiving
- Teaching Family Nursing

Topics for some of the posters include:

- Influences on the Young-Adult Daughter-Mother Relationship
- Self-Reports of Depression in the Year Following Childbirth
- Assessing the Intergenerational Transmission of Violence
- Protective Associations of Family Processes on Adolescent Sexual Activity
- Child Weight Status and Later Adult Quality of Life: A Reason for Concern?
- Relations between Salience of Family and Identity Style and Well-being
- Parenting & Problem Behaviors of Children with Diabetes & Their Siblings

- "My Life Ain't no Fairytale": Parental Stressors and Infant Development
- Examining the Lives of Pregnant Smokers in Low-Income Rural Midwest Areas
- Designing an Intervention to Mexican Origin Teen Women Transiting to Motherhood
- Sibling Relationships in the Face of Domestic Violence.

The Section hopes many NCFR members are not only able to attend these sessions,

roundtables, and poster sessions, but also attend these two special sessions:

- Forgiveness and Healing in Later Life,
- Building on Strengths in American Indian Families.

Specific information about the times, days and places for these events are available in the online program. Visit www.ncfr.org and click on the annual conference link .

*Submitted by Barbara Mandleco
Chair, Family and Health Section
Email: Barbara_Mandleco@BYU.EDU*

Family Policy Section News

Since our last newsletter article, the fall annual conference program has really taken shape. Thank you to all the people who submitted proposals and the many reviewers who provided their feedback. We have some interesting sessions planned in the policy areas of child health, work and family, and marriage protection and same sex families; as well as a workshop on evaluating educational policy efforts. There are posters on many aspects of family policy as well—adoption, marriage preparation, grandparents rearing grandchildren, adolescent delinquency, child care...and much more!

A highlight of the conference this year is the big birthday party celebrating 35 years of the family policy section. The party, which will follow the section business meeting, will honor some of the section's founders and contributors and give all of us a chance to hear from them about changes in family policy and the family policy section over the past three

decades. This process of "Looking Back and Looking Forward" will be a chance for all in attendance to be part of a dynamic exchange with leaders in the family policy arena about our history and what we might anticipate for the future. So, plan to come, participate, and enjoy some birthday cake, too!

Also, look for other special markers of the sections' achievements. Make sure to pick up your 35th anniversary ribbon when you check in at registration!

And, while the program is a highlight of the year, the section's executive committee as well as NCFR's leadership, would like to hear from you any time, about your interests and concerns. What areas of family policy interest you? What directions would you like to go in the future? What's on your mind?! Please contact Suzanna Smith at sdsmith@ufl.edu with your thoughts.

*Submitted by Suzanna Smith
Chair, Family Policy Section
E-mail: sdsmith@ufl.edu*

Celebrate Cindy's Career

Join us for a special reception at the Annual Conference. **Friday evening, November 10**, NCFR members and staff have a chance to celebrate Cindy Winter's 43 year career as our Conference Director. Cindy will retire in 2007, but we are holding the reception this year in Minneapolis so that her friends, family and local fan club can attend. Plenty of food, fun and facial tissue will be on hand as we see Cindy off on her new voyage. **Don't miss it!**



Books with Impact



How to Fail as a Therapist: 50 Ways to Lose or Damage Your Patients

Bernard Schwartz, Ph.D. and John V. Flowers, Ph.D.

Softcover: \$22.95/160 pages

Details the 50 most common errors therapists make and how to avoid them. Practical, helpful steps for avoiding reducing dropout rates and increasing positive treatment outcomes.

NEW!

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.

Making Intimate Connections

Seven Guidelines for Great Relationships and Better Communication

Albert Ellis, Ph.D. and Ted Crawford

Softcover: \$15.95/160 pages

Dr. Ellis' famous "Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy" principles provide seven proven techniques for improving intimate relationships.

Marital Myths Revisited: A Fresh Look at Two Dozen Mistaken Beliefs About Marriage

Arnold A. Lazarus, Ph.D., ABPP

Softcover: \$13.95/152 pages

Our most cherished beliefs about marriage could be myths! "Should husbands and wives be best friends?" "Is marriage a 50-50 partnership?" Arnold Lazarus reexamines these provocative questions and more, in the light of 21st century hindsight.

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Report from Minneapolis

Please Don't Squeeze the Health Insurance!

My husband changed jobs recently. He carries our family's health care benefits. A couple of weeks would elapse between jobs, so he took a consulting project. No problem, we thought. During that time, we filed to continue our benefits by paying the full cost of the non-employer-subsidized premium under the federal COBRA provision.

It's a good thing we kept up our premiums, because I nearly fainted when we got the bill. Our family's health premium for the month was \$1224. They call it COBRA. At those prices, they ought to call it *boa constrictor!*

Apparently my family's experience is shared by many. Health insurance availability is usually predicated on the good fortune of being an employee—or on having a legally-recognized relationship with one. Its disparate impact on diverse family formations, the part-time worker, those with disabilities and chronic illnesses is clear. According to the recent report of the Citizen's Health Care Working Group (CHCWG), the American people are ready for reform and are calling for affordable universal health coverage. What's newsworthy is that these recommendations are coming from the Dot Gov domain—an entity created by Congress.

The CHCWG was created in 2003 as part of the Medicare reform bill. Their Congressional mandate was to study the existing health care system, survey the American people, and then offer recommendations back to Congress. Members of the non-partisan working group represent leaders in government, business and industry, academia and healthcare, including Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt. As of May, over 10,000 citizens have provided input into the report. Their interim report was released on June 1 and is available at www.citizenshealthcare.gov. As some-

one who has been watching this issue unfold for years, I find their interim recommendations astonishing. Here is what this Congressional working group recommends:

1. It should be public policy that all Americans have affordable healthcare.
2. Define a "core" benefit package for all Americans.
3. Guarantee financial protection against the very high health care costs.
4. Support integrated community health networks.
5. Promote efforts to improve quality of care and efficiency.
6. Fundamentally restructure the way that palliative care, hospice care, and other end-of-life services are financed and provided, so that people living with advanced incurable conditions have increased access to these services in the environment they choose.

Within these broadly-defined principles, a few specifics are especially noteworthy. They define health as physical, mental and dental well-being. They recommend universal coverage for all Americans, with protection for catastrophic situations and protection for those of low income. A particularly remarkable statement was

the following which, as I interpret it, speaks to the American public's frustration with the "pre-existing condition" gotcha. The italics are mine.

"Across every venue we explored, we heard a common message: Americans should have a health care system where everyone participates, regardless of their financial resources or health status, with benefits that are sufficiently comprehensive to provide access to appropriate, high-quality care without endangering individual or family financial security."

This is big federal news. But something else is happening outside the beltway. Not seeing any hope of a solution out of Washington, state by state, the citizenry has already been moving ahead. Gradually the universal health care issue is getting attention in state legislatures in a big way.

Maine was the first state to develop health insurance for all Mainers. Several other states are following suit. Massachusetts is an interesting case study that may provide a model for other states. Massachusetts is known as one of the "bluer" states; its legislature has a Democratic

Report from Minneapolis continued on page 15

NCFR Report - A Member Forum

The NCFR Report is a member-written quarterly newsletter designed to encourage member-to-member dialogue; to inform colleagues about new research areas or to report early research findings and solicit critique before submission to a professional journal. Through the Report, NCFR also builds our community by reporting on people, events and organizational news.

Unlike the content of our scholarly journals, the articles in Report have not been peer-reviewed. In the spirit of open debate and academic freedom, NCFR Report is a member forum for exchanging ideas. The opinions or findings expressed are those of the author(s), which may or may not represent the official position of NCFR as an organization nor the prevailing scientific consensus on the topic.

Author email addresses are provided to encourage readers to offer comment to writers. Members may access the content of our scholarly journals on-line at www.ncfr.org <<http://www.ncfr.org>>. To join NCFR, click on our convenient on-line membership application at www.ncfr.org <<http://www.ncfr.org>>. Journalists with media inquiries are invited to contact Nancy Gonzalez at 763-231-2887 or via email at nancy@ncfr.org for information on our scholarly research.

68th NCFR Annual Conference

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Pre-conference Workshops: Nov. 7-8

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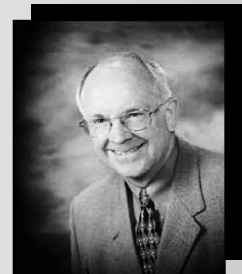
Keynoters



Unanswered Questions on the Changing American Family - 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

The Third Parent: What Do We Know...? - Dr. David Walsh, founder of the MediaWise Movement, a program of the National

Institute on Media and the Family.



"What if They Gave a Party and all the "Boomers" Came?"-Townhall on unanswered questions and the aging baby boomers. Moderated by **Lori Sturdevant**, Mpls. StarTribune Editorial Columnist. Panelists- **Priscilla Gibson**, Univ. of Minnesota, **Arthur Harkins**, Univ. of Minnesota

Special Sessions

♣ (Practitioner Update for Researchers) **After "I Do..." Unanswered Questions for Promoting Rich Relationships** a panel discussion with several pioneers in relational assessment and therapy including **Lorraine Blackman**, **David Olson**, and **Scott Stanley** ♣ (Research Update for Practitioners/Practitioner Update for Researchers) **Unanswered Questions: Frontiers in Marriage and Family Research**, **William Turner**, **Linda Burton**, **Karol Kumpfer**, **Jose Szapocznik** ♣ **The Role of Spirituality/Religion as an Asset for Positive Youth Development and Family Functioning**, **Peter Benson**, Search Institute ♣ **Working with African American Fathers Across the Lifespan: Theory and Practice**, **Michael Connor**, CA.State U-Long Beach, **Gary Cunningham**, Northpoint Health and Wellness Center, Minneapolis, **Julie Landsman**, Independent Consultant, Minneapolis, **Clarence Jones**, Southside Community Health Services, Minneapolis ♣ **Critical Race Feminisms: Race, Gender and the Law**, **Adrien Katherine Wing**, J.D., U. IA Col. of Law ♣ (Research Update for Practitioners) **Grief and Loss in Family Process** ♣ **Unanswered Questions: Families in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters** ♣ **Forgiveness and Healing in Later Life**, **Janet Ramsey**, Luther Seminary ♣ **"Lunching With the Legends"** – Opportunity to network and learn from senior researchers and clinicians ♣ **Wellstone Action Camp for Public Policy Training** ♣ **Interactive Round Tables** ♣ **8 Pre-conference Workshops and Events** ♣ **And much more**



For further information contact NCFR - Toll-free: 888-781-9331 E-mail:
cindy@ncfr.org; Website: www.ncfr.org/conference_info/index.asp

In Memory of Ruth Hathaway Jewson

Ruth Hathaway Jewson died at home on June 13, 2006 at the age of 92. She was the Executive Officer of the National Council on Family Relations for 28 years until her retirement.

During her tenure, NCFR membership grew from 2,700 to 4,000, and the staff from two persons to ten. Under her direction, the Council expanded the periodical *Marriage and Family Living* to the broader *Journal of Marriage and the Family* and began publishing *Family Relations*. She was the first editor of the NCFR newsletter and spearheaded the sponsorship of the International Union of Family Organizations Conference in New York. She played key roles for NCFR in the coordination of several White House Conferences on Aging, Children and Youth, and Families. Following her retirement, she was the first chair of NCFR's Religion and Family Life Section.

Dr. Jewson worked with the Committee of the American College of Obstetrics and



Gynecology to integrate family life education into medical school curricula. She crusaded for family life education in public schools and was instrumental in encouraging the establishment of NCFR's Certified Family Life Educator program. She guided the development of several policy position papers on topics ranging from the Vietnam War to population planning.

NCFR's Distinguished Service to Families Award in 1974. The Ruth Hathaway Jewson Distinguished Service Award was created by the NCFR in 1982. A scholarship in her name, the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Student Scholarship Award, was created in 1996 to provide research support to the best dissertation proposal submitted by a doctoral candidate in the field of family studies.

The Ruth Jewson Collection of the National Council on Family Relations' publications archive is housed at the St. Paul Campus Library of the University of Minnesota, and is comprised of a wide variety of literature in the family social sciences on topics including family relations, education, human psychology, family social history and human sexuality. The collection was compiled through Dr. Jewson's efforts over a period of 25 years.

A lifelong learner, Jewson earned her Ph.D. in Family Studies from the University of Minnesota when she was 64. Her dissertation was on the then unstudied topic of the experiences of women after retirement.

Dr. Jewson loved to travel and for 14 years was the first female board member of the Christian Children's Fund. She traveled to Thailand on the Fund's behalf to investigate the use of birth control in the area.

In addition to her professional activities, she was a member of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church for over 60 years, where she was an active circle member. She was most proud of her work to develop a church counseling center. She was a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron Nu and Gamma Sigma Delta; and a member of PEO.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband Vance. She is survived by sons Douglas (Alexandria, MN) and Dwight (Seattle, Washington); daughters Meredith Jo Bennett (Newport, Maine) and Roberta Pisa (St. Paul, MN); grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and brother John Hathaway (Birmingham, Alabama.) Services were held Wednesday August 17 at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. Memorials may be directed to the NCFR Jewson Scholarship or to the donor's choice.

Submitted by daughter, Roberta Pisa

REPORT FROM MINNEAPOLIS *continued from page 13*

majority. However, it has a Republican Governor, Mitt Romney. This is usually a prescription for vote-veto gridlock. But the Bay State is getting past this stalemate. How are they doing it? It's coming via centrist proposals and bi-partisan compromises. They got creative. One example is their ground-breaking mandate for participation. They adopted the rationale used for car insurance—it's mandatory. Everyone buys-in. Just this one change prevents the young and healthy from opting out of the system and prevents insurance companies from "cherry-picking" the healthiest applicants and rejecting the chronically ill.

Sometimes simple household analogies can help explain complicated public policy concepts. Massachusetts was able to appeal to voter logic by asking why health insurance isn't just like insuring a car. Early in World War II, President Roosevelt explained the Lend-Lease Act to the American people with a garden hose analogy. Using my own homespun illustration, I wonder if universal health care is analogous to toilet paper? Republican or Democrat, old or young, male or female, all of us need it and all public

restrooms provide it. You don't have to buy your own and carry it around. It's not a "pay as you go" system, if you'll pardon the expression. Everyone can go about their lives, secure in the knowledge that when nature calls, the "social fabric" will be there.

What you will notice, though, is that the system has checks and balances. Many different corporations manufacture both the product and the dispenser, building-in enough capitalism and competition to keep it affordable. And the roll of tissue is usually offered in a non-standard size and in a fortified dispenser as a disincentive to theft and misuse.

Will Congress accept the recommendations of their own working group and enact universal health coverage at the federal level? Or will health coverage grow gradually, state-by-state, until it exists everywhere in 50 different varieties? Time will tell. But one thing is sure; policy paper is showing up everywhere—and it's on a roll!

*Nancy Gonzalez, M.Ed., CFLE
Public Policy Staffer*

FALL 2006 CALENDAR

September 5, 2006

Deadline for prospective CFLEs to apply for the fall review via the portfolio process

September 25, 2006

“Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with your Family.” A national initiative by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University encourages families to make regular family dinners a priority. For more information, see www.casacolumbia.org

October 3, 2006

Deadline to submit articles for the December issue of NCFR Report. Special Family Focus section on “Families and the Future”

October 12, 2006

Mid-Atlantic Council on Family Relations 16th Annual Building Strong Families Conference. Families Surviving Loss. Messiah College, Grantham, PA. www.messiah.edu.bsf. Approved for 5 Contact Hours, .5 CEUs, CFLE credit.

October 28, 2006

Promoting Positive Individual and Family Relationships. North Texas Student Council on Family Relations' 13th Annual State Conference. Denton, TX. Contact Tommie Lawhon, CFLE. Lawhon@unt.edu. Approved for 4 Contact Hours, .4 CEUs, CFLE credit.

November 8 – 11, 2006

NCFR Annual Conference, Minneapolis, www.ncfr.org



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