

In this issue:

## Teaching Family Science

pages F1 – F16

In this issue, some of NCFR's most accomplished teachers share their wisdom..

Next issue: **Open Mic** – Articles on any family-related subject.

## Congratulations to the 2012 NCFR Elected Officers

The following NCFR members were elected to the following positions of the National Council on Family Relations beginning in November of 2012.

**Annual Conference Program Chair-Elect** (Program Chair for the 2014 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland)

**Catherine A. Solheim, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Family Social Science, University of Minnesota. Catherine has served NCFR in many areas: Chair and Past Chair International Section; Elections Council; S/NP representative on Board of Directors; Alabama Council on Family Relations President; Long-range Planning Committee; Local Arrangements Committee 2002; Pre-conference Tour Chair. Catherine's message: "Imagine 2014...the 20-year anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family. What an amazing opportunity to focus the 2014 NCFR Annual Conference on this theme. My vision for serving as program chair is to facilitate a rich intellectual conference environment in which speakers from around the world challenge us to consider environmental, social, economic, political, and relational aspects of family life. I also envision family scholars presenting cutting-edge research, education, and engagement scholarship, highlighting the impact of globalization on their work. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with others to shape the vision of 2014!"



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service State Specialist in Family Science; Director, Oklahoma State University Center for Family Resilience. Ron has participated in NCFR in the following ways: presenter at NCFR Annual Conferences; NCFR section member in Research and Theory, Ethnic Minorities (2010 Best Paper award), Family Therapy (2007 Best Student Poster award); 2009 Extension pre-conference workshop planning committee; 2010 Oklahoma Conference Planning Committee; ad hoc review, *Family Relations*. Ron's message: "I would survey department heads to identify gaps of job applicants that NCFR could address in conference sessions. I also would organize workshops on (a) job hunting for practitioners, instructors, and researchers to address different career tracks, writing application letters, interview preparation, and negotiating your first job offer; (b) grantsmanship that includes preparing to be competitive, a mock study section, and approaching foundations; (c) essential methodologies for social scientists; (d) developing community partnerships for research and teaching; (e) developing teaching skills; (f) picking graduate schools; and (g) being successful without killing yourself trying."



### Annual Conference 2012 October 31-November 3 Phoenix, Arizona

The plenary line-up is set... four distinguished presenters speaking on important topics related to families and health. NEW: "Early bird registration" now ends June 30. Read more on page 11.

**Student/New Professional Program Representative, Annual Conference Program Committee** (2013-2014)

**Ronald B. Cox, Jr., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University,



**National Elections Council** (2012-2015)  
**Abbie E. Goldberg, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Clark University

2012 elected officers continued on page 2

# 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:** Elaine Anderson

**Board Members:** Rose Allen, Paul Amato, Andrew Behnke, I. Joyce Chang, Jennifer Hardesty, Carolyn Henry, Lyndal Khaw, Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield

**Executive Director:** Diane Cushman

**Editor, NCFR Report:** Nancy Gonzalez

**Assistant Editor:** Charles Cheesebrough

**Adviser:** Bahira Sherif Trask

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How to contribute to the NCFR Report: The NCFR Report is member-written. Articles accepted for publication will be edited using standard editorial practice, and given priority based on (1) relevance to the Family Focus theme, or (2) brevity due to space limitations, and (3) how articles form a complementary collection. For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Nancy Gonzalez, at [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org). **The contents of Report articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.**

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**NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion.**

Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are: Spring issue—deadline December 21, Summer issue—March 21, Fall issue—June 21 and the Winter issue—deadline September 21. Send submissions to:

Nancy Gonzalez at [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org).

For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

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## 2012 elected officers continued from page 1



Mihaela Robila



Marilyn Coleman



Randal Day



Francisco Villarruel



Adriana  
Umaña-Taylor

**Mihaela Robila, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Family Studies, Queens College

### National Fellows Committee (2012-2015)

**Marilyn Coleman, Ed.D.**, Curators' Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Missouri

**Randal D. Day, Ph.D.**, Professor, School of Family Life, Camilla E. Kimball Chair of Home and Family Living; Director of BYU Family Studies Center, Brigham Young University

**Francisco A. Villarruel, Ph.D.**, University Outreach and Engagement Senior Fellow and Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University

**Adriana Umaña-Taylor, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, School of Social Family Dynamics, Arizona State University

### SECTION OFFICERS

#### Education & Enrichment Section

**Debra L. Berke, Ph.D.**, CFLE, Chair-Elect; **Jenell Kelly, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Jennifer L. Doty, M.S.**, Student/New Professional

#### Ethnic Minorities Section

**Ani Yazedjian, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect; **Kristy Shih, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Mayra Y. Bamaca, Ph.D.** and **Yolanda T. Mitchell, MS**, Student/New Professionals

#### Family and Health Section

**Karina M. Shreffler, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect; **Kimberly Greder, Ph.D.**, CFLE, Secretary/Treasurer; **Duhita Mahatmya, Ph.D.**, Student/New Professional

#### Family Science Section

**Robin Yaure, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect; **Michael R. Sturm, Jr., MFT**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Donna Hancock**, Student/New Professional

#### Family Therapy Section

**Shayne Anderson, Ph.D.**, Chair-Elect; **Rachel B. Tambling, Ph.D.**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Lindsay Edwards, M.S.**, Student/New Professional

#### NCFR Bylaws

Revisions to the NCFR Bylaws were also approved and a copy of the revised NCFR Bylaws can be found on the NCFR website at [www.ncfr.org/about/board-directors/governance/ncfr-bylaws](http://www.ncfr.org/about/board-directors/governance/ncfr-bylaws). ■

## On the bookshelf

*On the Bookshelf* is a news column intended to build community by letting colleagues know about new books by fellow members. Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by NCFR. To submit your book for consideration in the next *On the Bookshelf* column, at least one author must be an NCFR member and the announcement will be published once. Send your submission in the exact format of this listing to [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org)

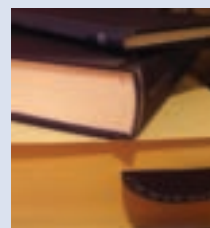
Joyce Arditti (2012). *Parental Incarceration and the Family*. NYU Press.

Amy Blackstone (2012). *Principles of Sociological Inquiry: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*. Flat World Knowledge.

Alan Booth, Susan Brown, Nancy S. Landale, Wendy D. Manning, & Susan McHale (Eds.) (2012). *Early Adulthood in a Family Context*. Springer.

Michael N. Mbiti (2011). *Kikuyu Circumcision Ritual (Irua Ria Anake): Transition from Boyhood to Manhood among Kikuyu Men*. Lambert Academic Press.

Carla Sofka, Illene Noppe Cupit, & Kathleen Gilbert (Eds.) (2012). *Dying, Death, and Grief in an Online Universe*. Springer.





## New work of the NCFR Board

by Elaine A. Anderson, NCFR President, [eanders@umd.edu](mailto:eanders@umd.edu)

Many of you may not know what the elected Board of Directors of the NCFR does in the role of serving the organization. You may only think of the Board when you see the request to vote in our elections for Board members; perhaps the major face-to-face contact you have with Board members is at the annual conference, where we hold the annual NCFR business meeting and where members of the Board attend all of the Section meetings to engage in organizational discussions. The Board President also connects with the members through the President's Report published in each issue of the *NCFR Report*. Beyond these more visible activities, the work of the Board may be less obvious. Therefore, I want to briefly share with you some of the responsibilities of the Board and to outline our latest new work.

Our Board member job description says we are responsible for the overall governance of the organization on behalf of all NCFR members. We are to work within the NCFR Board Policy Governance model to articulate vision, set priorities, and monitor staff performance. And we are to take responsibility for maintaining contact with the membership and reflect the needs of all NCFR members.

So how do we attempt to fill our Board role? The Board meets monthly (mainly via phone conference) to review and discuss the work that the staff has undertaken on behalf of the NCFR. In our conversation we try to assess if the activities of the organization are helping NCFR meet its mission to develop and disseminate research, theory, and practice to support the well-being of families. We also attempt to identify, collect, and generate suggestions for new actions the staff and membership might undertake in order to meet the NCFR mission.

As I mentioned in the last issue of the *NCFR Report*, the Board's new actions this year are to help envision and set priorities in three areas: increased engagement and activities for our Sections, elevating the role

of NCFR in our policy discourse, and the development of international partnerships and opportunities.

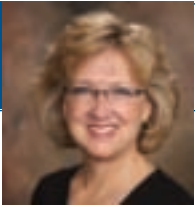
So what have we been doing these past three months on these initiatives? First, we formed three board subcommittees—Policy, Section, and International. Each subcommittee is composed of three different Board members: Policy—Rose Allen, Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Andrew Beneke; Section—Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Jennifer Hardesty, Carolyn Henry; and International—Paul Amato, Joyce Chang, Lyndal Khaw. These subcommittees have convened to discuss and identify goals for their committee and to determine where and how to collect information that could inform the committee about possible actions, challenges, and areas for further investigation. We have been listening to you by looking at your comments from the annual conference evaluation, reviewing surveys of member views conducted by several Sections and the NCFR, and contacting members individually and just talking to you. You have also given us the names of other people we should contact. The subcommittees have begun to report back to the Board about things they have learned. Already the staff has responded to several items.

Through these discussions as well as the ongoing conversations between the Board and staff, we determined there was a need to tweak the conference planning process in order to increase the number of presentations by senior researchers at the NCFR Annual Conference. The Board encouraged the section chairs to reach out to NCFR members whose engagement with NCFR is not what it once was and invite them to submit symposia ideas to the sections. Concurrently, the NCFR staff developed a procedure whereby all section chairs have an opportunity to cross over section lines to plan conference sessions and partner with other sections in order to increase the number of interdisci-

plinary sessions. As a consequence of these actions, numerous sessions for the 2012 conference will integrate the work of members from multiple sections to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of our work in the area of health and family.

When we started talking to members regarding perspectives on international involvement, we were excited to learn how useful the Zippy News tool has become for many members. They reported looking forward to its arrival and reviewing the materials closely, and they suggested the addition of international family news. Subsequently, staff contacted the leadership of the International Section, who put a call out to all members of the Section; staff already has received suggestions for news items as well as other international opportunities. A new area of Zippy News will focus on international initiatives and members of the International Section are now engaged by sharing their expertise. These are just two examples of what the Board subcommittee work has spawned in a few short weeks.

At this point it appears this subcommittee process is working. Several new actions have grown out of our Board work that we hope will benefit you and your work to support the well-being of families. As the Board continues to expand our inquiries on these initiatives, we welcome connections and contacts with you, the membership. The Board represents you for the development of the organization, and we are to be the eyes and ears of the membership, but we can only fulfill that role with your help. We need to hear your voices, receive your ideas, and get your feedback. Member engagement is very important to the life of any organization. We are excited and pleased with member willingness to engage in discussions with us on these important areas and look forward to our future conversations. You will continue to hear more about additional outcomes from this Board work in future months. ■



## Applying our resources . . . especially human

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

Teaching Family Science, the topic of this issue of *Report's* Focus Section, is aimed at a third of NCFR's members whose primary professional activity is university or college teaching. So numerous were the submissions that we nearly doubled the size of the issue.

Our hope is that you will pull out the Focus section and save it for future use and refer to it often along with our online Professional Resource Library (PRL) at <http://www.ncfr.org/professional-resource-library>. In the PRL, you will find hundreds of resources for teaching (as well as policy, research, theory, family therapy, etc.), including curricula, lesson plans, syllabi, textbook reviews, and best practices from your colleagues; [ncfr.org](http://ncfr.org) is quickly becoming the website of choice for professional resources in family science.

A website is only as good as its keywords and "searchability," whether for use by members looking for that great video in last week's Zippy (<http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-community-blog>) or the plenary sessions from the NCFR 2011 conference (<http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2011/watch-and-listen>), or by non-members who are trolling the internet for everything they can find on working with military families or parent education. Thanks to the leadership of Jason Samuels, NCFR's Manager of Information Technology, and Google Grants for Non-profits, NCFR has expanded its visibility and discoverability

through free online advertising. For program details visit <http://www.google.com/grants/details.html>. Google ads show up on the right side of the screen, adjacent to the middle column of site hits for a search. Our goal is to have more family professionals find NCFR.

We recently asked NCFR members to update their information in the NCFR database. This information is extremely helpful for program planning purposes so that we can continue to meet the diverse needs of NCFR members. To encourage you to take the time to update your member record we will be giving away a "door prize." We do this because our experience has demonstrated a significantly higher rate of participation when there is a chance at a free gift. Your chances of winning are far better than those of the national lottery, but nonetheless, there will be only one winner. Good luck!

### Members...the greatest resource

I want to take this opportunity to thank the leadership of several NCFR sections who have committed to expanding the work of their sections beyond the creation of the annual conference program.

- Thomas Holman, Research and Theory Section Chair, has developed and implemented a new approach to annual conference planning, one that engages several members of the section in a planning committee approach.

- Joanne Roberts, Chair of the Religion and Family Section, who has worked with her section to develop a multi-year strategic plan.
- Tammy Henderson, Family Policy Chair, who is holding monthly conference planning meetings with the Family Policy Section executive committee and who also developed a Section Activities Calendar and a new description of officer duties.

Each of these NCFR leaders presented these best practices at the April section chair training session in Minneapolis. We are indebted to you for your vision and your willingness to give so generously of your time to NCFR.

You'll also be hearing from the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) with a series of demographic and diversity questions on the first comprehensive NCFR member survey of its kind. Responses from this survey will assist the NCFR Board and its committee by providing direction for future inclusion and diversity work in NCFR.

The 2012 NCFR Annual Conference Program Planning Committee is in the final stages of program planning. Thanks to all of you for submitting proposals, 619 of them. Be sure to check the website for up to the minute conference information at <http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2012>.

Even while we look forward to 2012 in Phoenix, work is underway for the 75th anniversary meeting and conference in San Antonio in 2013. If you are interested in assisting with the anniversary activities planning, please contact Charlie Cheesebrough at [charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org](mailto:charlescheesebrough@ncfr.org).

One final thank you is to the members who responded to our request for feedback on NCFR's one-year-old website. You gave us the best and the worst, and now we will make changes to make the site better meet your needs. We couldn't make it better without your honest and direct feedback. Thanks much. ■

Access NCFR's website at:  
[www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org)

To reach NCFR headquarters:  
[info@ncfr.org](mailto:info@ncfr.org)

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## “I wish I could find an association that worked with families”: My circuitous career path

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

“I wish I could find an association that worked with families.” Those were the exact words I spoke to my husband just a few months before beginning my career at NCFR.

I’ve been employed by NCFR for more than 22 years. I am incredibly fortunate to have a job that has provided me with so many opportunities to learn and grow and to contribute to a field in which I believe so strongly. While the path that led me here was less than direct, I doubt that I would have found this job in any other way.

I graduated with a major in psychology and a minor in interpersonal relationships in 1981. My banker father had strongly encouraged me to pursue a degree in business, but my heart and brain were in the social sciences. I didn’t really know what I wanted to do with my degree, but I knew I wanted to do something with families. My own family had gone through one of the first family treatment programs at Hazelden, a well-known alcohol and substance abuse treatment center in Minnesota, while I was in high school. Seeing how much our family was helped by discussing our problems and learning new ways of dealing with issues had a profound effect on me. It was a hands-on, personal lesson in family systems theory!

As you might expect, my bachelor’s degree in psychology didn’t exactly open up a lot of doors. I figured I would pursue a master’s degree at some point, but needed a break from school. I found myself working as a secretary/receptionist at a waterbed store. You can imagine how thrilled my father was about that! Fortunately, I was only at that job for 9 months before I obtained a new position as an administrative assistant for the Minnesota Multi Housing Association, (MHA) a trade association for rental property owners and managers. My degree helped me meet the minimum requirement for the job, but it was actually the skills I learned

as a secretary/receptionist that helped me get the new position. While working at the Waterbed Gallery, I had learned about customer service, business etiquette, accounts payable and receivable, and organizing and completing tasks.

Initially my position at MHA involved administrative support to both the director of government relations and the director of education. I learned a lot about lobbying and the legislative process, as well as planning and carrying out educational events. I had only been at MHA for 7 months when the director of education left for another job. I applied for and received the position. I was fortunate in that MHA’s executive director was well-known for giving green employees the opportunity to learn on the job. He was also famous for not paying very well, but I was thrilled to be given the chance to spread my wings and be in charge of the department.

As the MHA director of education, I was responsible for planning and carrying out a number of monthly educational meetings, including my favorite breakfast meeting, “Eggs and Education.” None of the MHA speakers were paid, so that helped to improve my negotiation skills and the art of

recognizing volunteers. I was also in charge of certification programs for apartment managers and maintenance technicians. I worked with the National Apartment Association to offer the Certified Apartment Manager (CAM) and Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician (CAMT) programs at the local level.

I really enjoyed working in association management. It’s a fast-paced, constantly changing environment that provides numerous opportunities to hone a number of versatile skills. As a local association, MHA also provided me with the chance to meet and work face-to-face with a lot of great people through a number of different committees and events. But, while I certainly felt good about helping rental property owners and managers to provide high-quality housing, my heart was still with families. I had been with MHA for 7 years when I said to my husband (whom I met through MHA), “I wish I could find an association that worked with families.”

Imagine my reaction when I was searching the local *Star Tribune* “help wanted” ads a

*cfle directions* continued on page 6

A family is born! NCFR member Julia Becerra Bernard welcomes newborn Oscar Miguel Bernard to the world. “Ozzy” arrived last August 13 and weighed in at 6 lbs., 13 oz.; he was 19 3/4 inches long. Julia is an assistant professor at McNeese State University and Ozzy’s dad, James Bernard, teaches in McNeese’s Engineering Technology Department. Welcome, Ozzy!

### Our NCFR family



few months later and saw a position announcement for “Certification Director for the National Council on Family Relations.” I knew this was *my* job. Who else would have a social science degree and 7 years’ experience administering a certification program? Fortunately NCFR Executive Director Mary Jo Czapslewski agreed and offered me the position. Had I not put in my time as a receptionist/secretary and worked in a field unrelated to my degree, I would not have had the qualifications needed for my position here at NCFR.

After working at NCFR for a few years, I went on to pursue a master’s degree in Work, Family, and Community Education at the University of Minnesota. Had I pursued that degree right after graduating with my bachelor’s, I know I would not have learned as much. The degree had much more of an impact because I was able to apply my experiences working at NCFR.

My daughter, Elaina, is currently a sophomore in college, majoring in sociology (at least that is her major this month). Like me at that time, she doesn’t really know what she wants to do, but she knows she is really enjoying her psychology and sociology courses. I am encouraging her to be realistic about the type of job she will get right out of college and also encouraging her to seriously consider association management.

That advice holds true for those pursuing a family science degree, as well. I often tell CFLE candidates that getting a degree in family science is not like getting a nursing or teaching degree where the employment settings are more defined. The good news is

## Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between January 1 and March 31, 2012. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

### California

Katie Morlan

### Colorado

Paula Hale

### Iowa

Richard Elgersma

### Illinois

Candis Nikolic  
Sonrisa Parker

### Maryland

Danielle Collins  
Jessica Riddick

### Michigan

Megan Beltman  
Julie Brandes  
Stephanie Deluca  
Jennifer Griggs  
Amber King  
Michelle Meschini  
Nancy Patterson (full)  
Justin Petkus  
Laura Rasmussen  
Doyle Rice  
Charlene Simpson

### Minnesota

Jilleen Cade  
Elizabeth Wartick

### New Mexico

Patricia Steele

### New York

Colleen Pagnan

### North Carolina

Jo Ann Freeman  
Robin Gray  
Donald McKinney (full)

### Ohio

Molly Bell  
Annemarie Coen  
Brittany Paliswat  
Devin Patterson  
Kimber Richard  
Shyann Spurbeck  
Amy Weyrick

### Oklahoma

Victoria Fort

### Pennsylvania

Leigh Reilly

### South Carolina

Lilian Alvarez  
Melissa George (full)

### Texas

Abigail Adams  
Ester Anderson  
Brandon Burr (full)  
Ashley Castillon  
John Garcia  
Sesalle McDaniel  
Amanda Musgrave  
Kassandra Watters

### Utah

Daryl Zadok Budd  
Rachel Maldonado  
Catherine Vineyard  
Angela Ward

### Virginia

Amy Lehman  
Erin Vasquez

### Washington

Angela Pike

### Wisconsin

Amy Brown  
Jena Rock  
Kendra Lewis  
(approved  
November 2011)

that there are a multitude of settings in which the skills and knowledge gained through a family degree can be applied. But those jobs fall under a variety of titles and in a variety of settings. Applicants need to be creative about determining where they can fit in and be able to articulate what they bring to the table. They also need to realize

that they will most likely have to work their way into a professional position and that their first job experience might include administrative or clerical responsibilities.

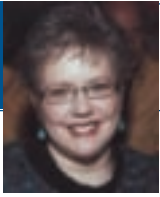
A professional or trade association can provide a wonderful opportunity to gain needed skills and experience. It’s also a great way to get to know others working in the field and to meet and impress future employers. There is a professional or trade association for just about any profession or cause that you can think of. We are all familiar with organizations like the American Heart Association and the American Association of Retired Persons, but there are smaller, local, and more specific associations as well. Those interested in working with families regarding health issues can look to their local diabetes or heart association. Someone wanting to work with families and financial issues might try to find a local banking association that provides public education. The opportunities are endless.

I can only hope that Elaina will be as fortunate as I have been in finding the perfect job! ■

## Thank you donors

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

Patricia Bell-Scott	E. Jeffrey Hill	B. Kay Pasley
Janet Benavente	Doris Marie Houston	Kathleen W. Piercy
Marsha T. Carolan	Linda D. Ladd	Gerard Rack-Wildner
Lauren S. Clune	Bethany L. Letiecq	Ronald M. Sabatelli
Teresa M. Cooney	Thomas H. McGloshen	Emily Schulz
Albert J. Davis	Peggy S. Meszaros	Robert A. Semel
Aaron T. Ebata	Pamela A. Monroe	Rebecca J. Ward
Frank D. Fincham	Cynthia A. Osborne	
Tammy L. Henderson	Rob Palkovitz	1/1/2012 - 3/31/2012



## Changing lives: One inflatable turkey at a time

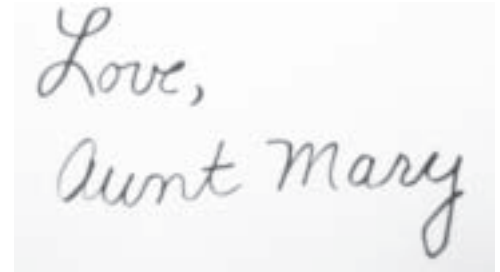
by Nancy Gonzalez, CFLE, Editor, [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org)

NCFR scholars change lives. I have proof. NCFR has a book club twice a year. In the fall of 2010, we read Robert Milardo's book, *Forgotten Kin: Aunts and Uncles*. One of the book club participants has a story to tell about it, and I have permission to tell it here. A few identifying factors will be changed for privacy, but the essential story remains. Our participant—let's call her Mary—read the book and soon applied the contents with wonderful results.

Mary has two nephews—the sons of her brother. About 12 years ago, her brother went through a divorce. The mother of the boys had to relocate out of state for employment, and the boys went, too. The older nephew eventually chose to come back to live with his father and finish high school. But the younger one was pretty much entirely detached from Mary's side of the family.

Mary thought she might never see him again. Then, taking a chance (because of the book club and learning how important these relationships are), she sent him a card and a nice check for his 18th birthday last June. She just signed it, "I'm always your Auntie" and left it at that, never expecting to hear from him. She was even prepared to have the check returned if her nephew wanted to break ties. She hadn't had any contact with him since he was a little boy.

She was blown away by the results. Her nephew—we'll call him Charlie—looked her up on Facebook and sent her a long, long message sharing all of his feelings about life and his goals for the future. It was just exhilarating for Aunt Mary! Charlie shared that not only did he remember Aunt Mary, but that what he remembered most about her was her penchant for practical jokes and gag gifts.



Charlie started college in fall of 2011. Aunt Mary made a commitment to Charlie to keep him laughing and to build that bridge that she thought was gone. Every two months or so, Mary sends him a classic college care package—\$20 and some homemade fudge or a gag gift of some kind. He looks forward to his packages and shares them with his friends. Her gifts are now part of the legend of his dorm floor. Everyone wants to see the crazy stuff that Charlie's Aunt Mary sends. For Thanksgiving, he got an inflatable gag turkey. "In February," she added, "it was a remote-control whoopee cushion and enough pizza 'dough' to treat his friends to a Super Bowl party. His friends think he has the best aunt ever." Mary knew she had reeled him back into the boat when he wrote her in December with his new address—he changed rooms in the dorm and he wanted to make sure Mary had the address change. He didn't want to miss any packages!

Had Mary not read *Forgotten Kin: Aunts and Uncles* for the NCFR Book Club, she says she would never have had the courage to reach out. She missed half of Charlie's childhood and she thought all was lost forever. The book was convincing—aunts and uncles have a potential for unique generativity with their nieces and nephews. Mary reached out—and Charlie reached back. I contacted Dr. Milardo and told him this story, and he was touched by it. He said, "It's a humbling experience to have someone say your work actually affected them, and the highest of compliments."

It's moments like these when I realize the important influence that family scholars can have on families. Dr. Milardo did the research. NCFR member Mary applied it. Mary has her nephew back. And now he and his dorm friends have an inflatable turkey, a remote-control whoopee cushion, and some petty cash. Mary sends a big shout out to Bob Milardo for his life-changing work! ■

## NCFR Fellows sought

by Shirley Hanson, Chair, NCFR Fellows Committee, [hansonshirley@comcast.net](mailto:hansonshirley@comcast.net)

Greetings, NCFR members! The Fellows Committee is seeking nominations for the 2012 Fellows Awards. Would you please help us by nominating members who have made significant contributions to the organization and the field? A description of Fellow status in NCFR, the Fellows Award criteria for selection to Fellow status, and the procedure for submitting nominations follow. The Fellows Committee would greatly appreciate your assistance.

### What Is Fellow Status in NCFR?

Fellow status in NCFR is an honor awarded to relatively few living members of NCFR on the basis of their outstanding contributions to the field of the family in the areas of scholarship, teaching, outreach, or professional service, and a record of superior contribu-

tions to NCFR. By definition, outstanding contributions are those with broad impact on the field and are enduring over time.

### What Are the Criteria For Fellow Status?

A. Nominees for Fellow Status must have made outstanding contributions to the field.

Examples of outstanding contributions include, but are not limited to:

1. Published scholarship that has shaped or reshaped the field of family relations;
2. A history of innovation in practice or outreach that has transformed the field;
3. The development and implementation of innovative, novel, or significant interventions or programs designed to promote healthy family relations;

*fellows sought continued on page 8*

# News from the Family and Health Section



by Jan McCulloch, Ph.D., Chair, [jmccullo@umn.edu](mailto:jmccullo@umn.edu)

I realize that you won't receive this *NCFR Report* piece until summer, but I wanted to provide you with a summary of the activities we as a section are involved in as we prepare for the 2012 annual conference in Phoenix. Boy, it has been a busy time!

First, our *Walk to Phoenix* project is off to a great start. At the time of this writing, the Family and Health Section is leading the section competition with Family Therapy, Education & Enrichment, Research and Theory, Ethnic Minorities, and Family Science edging closer all the time! The Family and Health Team currently has 15 registered team members, but we could sure use the help of other section members. I hope you will consider joining our team and logging your hours. You can get information about enrolling and logging hours on the NCFR website!

In addition to the section teams, we also have nine informal teams. I am pleased that we have a Family Social Science team here in my department with folks logging miles. If you have friends you want to walk with, please let NCFR know so that your informal team can be entered in this competition. Great prizes await!

Second, this month (March) we are in the process of reviewing abstracts and populating the 2012 conference program. What can I say – you are magnificent! Compared to last year, our section has a 58% increase in the number of abstracts submitted (84 vs. 133). Whew, you can imagine the number of reviewers we needed to insure that all abstracts were reviewed. When I realized how many abstracts we were going to need to review, I sent an urgent plea to all of you to assist. I want to express my appreciation to the 70+ reviewers who allowed us to complete our work on time!

Once I complete conference planning in April with the conference program chair, section chairs, and the NCFR staff, we will be on to our other 2012 Family and Health

project—the 5K Walk/Run to take place in Phoenix. The proceeds from this run will be donated to a family focused non-profit in the Phoenix area. This is a special way we can focus on health, take care of ourselves in the process, and recognize the great work that is taking place on behalf of families in the area. Please keep this in mind and be ready to sign up and enjoy this conference event.

In closing, at NCFR this is the year of Families and Health. We are fortunate to have the opportunity for highlighting the many ways health is central to family well-being. I congratulate all of you for taking our charge seriously – we have stepped up to the plate to show our support for the annual conference. I look forward to seeing the results of our efforts in Phoenix! ■

## Walk to Phoenix prize winners

Congratulations to the following members whose names were drawn in the Walk to Phoenix sign-up promotion.

- Alicia Gaede, UW–Stevens Point—Apple iPod and Apple/Nike step sensor
- Alex Jensen, Purdue—Reebok Fitness Watch
- Kara Newby, Ohio State—Reebok Fitness Watch

More than 60 additional walkers were recruited between February 10 and March 9. You can still sign up and be eligible for prize drawings: [www.ncfr.org/walk-to-phoenix](http://www.ncfr.org/walk-to-phoenix).

## *fellows sought* continued from page 7

4. The development and implementation of innovative curricula for training professionals in the area of family science;
5. The development and implementation of innovative social policy relevant to families;
6. Superior contributions to NCFR as an organization.
- B. At least 10 years of professional experience after the receipt of the appropriate graduate or professional degree.
- C. NCFR membership for at least five continuous years at the time of nomination.

## Write for NCFR Report!

*NCFR Report* is member-written. All are encouraged to submit articles for publication. The upcoming themes for the NCFR Report are:

- Fall 2012: Open Mic—articles on any area of family studies—deadline 6-21-2012
- Winter 2012: Families and Spirituality—deadline 9-21-2012
- Spring 2013: Global Families—deadline 12-21-2012



Interested in writing on one of the themes? Write to Editor Nancy Gonzalez to request the submission guidelines: [nancygonzalez@ncfr.org](mailto:nancygonzalez@ncfr.org)

### What is the Procedure for Nominations?

- A. Must be nominated by another NCFR member.
- B. Must have the endorsement of three individuals (including the nominator), at least two of whom are NCFR members, who describe the outstanding nature of the nominee's contributions.

Please send your nominations to NCFR at [jeannestrand@ncfr.org](mailto:jeannestrand@ncfr.org). NCFR will reply with further instructions on getting started and the information regarding membership status. **Deadline for nominations is August 31, 2012.** We are trying to build this special recognition to further the legacy of outstanding members of NCFR. Let us hear from you, and thank you very much for your consideration. ■



# Family Policy News: Standing Committees

by Tammy Henderson, Ph.D., Family Policy Section Chair, [tammy.henderson@okstate.edu](mailto:tammy.henderson@okstate.edu)

Greetings! Today I want to make a special appeal and ask for volunteers to serve on standing committees.

## Why standing committees?

Family Policy is the subject of one of the primary initiatives for our current President, Elaine Anderson. In addition to the focus on policy, we need to meet the diverse needs of our section members. One way to move toward that end is to establish standing committees. Some initial goals are to (a) continually enhance the quality of conference planning related to policy, programs, and impact analysis; (b) develop conference sessions or webinars and identify resources to support teaching excellence in the area of family policy; and (c) actively engage members in activities that promote advocacy and policy.

We need your leadership and professional service. Join us in moving our section forward. We need four to five individuals to serve on each of the following standing committees, recognizing we will need to fine-tune the goals and objectives during the course of my term. There will be monthly conference or Skype calls. In addition, we should consider meeting at the annual conference in November 2012.

## Communications Committee

Assist the following Family Policy Executive Committee with the following:

- Get pertinent information to section members.
- Identify authors and content for *NCFR Report*, journal submissions, and policy updates.
- Identify authors to write articles, white papers, fact sheets, and other items to enhance the understanding of policy – research, theory, best practices, and instructional approaches.

- Submit updates, reminders, accolades, and other pertinent information to the section.
- Provide updates and seeking guidance from the Executive Committee.
- Submit a one-page annual report to the Family Policy Executive Committee by August 31 of each year.

## Conference Program Committee

Assist the Chair-Elect and Family Policy Executive Committee with the following:

- Identify speakers and session sponsors.
- Identify reviewers of conference abstracts.
- Review conference proposals.
- Organize conference proposals in most appropriate format for the annual conference and other forms of media (i.e., webinars, pre-conference workshops, special sessions, teleconference sessions, and more).
- Promote high quality, innovative sessions, programs, and activities that coincide with the mission of NCFR, including inclusion and diversity initiative. See the following web link: <http://www.ncfr.org/about/board-directors/board-committees/inclusion-diversity-committee>
- Submit a one-page annual report to the Family Policy Executive Committee by August 31 of each year.

## Awards Committee

Assist the Family Policy Executive Committee to administer the awards, including but not limited to the following:

- Work with the section's Secretary-Treasurer and Communications Committee to announce and solicit submissions for the award.
- Review submissions using a rubric.
- Submit an engaging report profiling the receipts for the *NCFR Report*, *Zippy News*, and webpage.

- Announce the award winners by June 1 of each year (a bylaw change).
- Assist with developing fundraising activities to enhance the funds for Family Policy Awards and funds for other activities, including speakers, special sessions, and more.
- Promote high quality, innovative sessions, programs, and activities that coincide with the mission of NCFR, including inclusion and diversity initiative. See the following web link: <http://www.ncfr.org/about/board-directors/board-committees/inclusion-diversity-committee>
- Submit a one-page annual report to Family Policy Executive Committee by August 31 of each year.

## Creativity and Innovation Committee

Assist the Family Policy Executive Committee with the following:

- Use and/or find new pathways (i.e., partners, collaborations, media formats, and other approaches) necessary to enhance the knowledge and skills surrounding family policy seasoned with best practices, research, instruction, theory, and culturally aware practices.
- Determine creative ways to disseminate quality evidence-based information, relevant theories, culturally aware and respectful approaches (i.e., Community-based Participatory Research), and best practices for advocacy and educating the larger society about policy concerns in an inclusive manner.
- Identify current or new pathways to enhance the skills, knowledge, and practice of family professionals, including but limited to practitioners, researchers, educators, program providers in the policy arena.
- Identify ways to integrate professional excellence and collaborations with CFLE, Affiliate Councils, and other sections regarding family policy.
- Promote high quality, innovative sessions, programs, and activities that coincide with the mission of NCFR, including inclusion and diversity initiative. See the following web link: <http://www.ncfr.org/about/board-directors/board-committees/inclusion-diversity-committee>
- Submit a one-page annual report to Family Policy Executive Committee by August 31 of each year.

You may call me at 540-818-9089. ■



# How NOT to get an academic job

by Matthew S. Mutchler, Ph.D., LMFT

Few things in the development of an SNP are as thrilling, terrifying and exhausting as searching for your first academic job. Just as with clinical case studies, the stories we hear from our mentors about their own interviews are normally heroic tales of smashing successes.

This is not one of those stories.

In the first year of my search, I interviewed for three jobs — and got none. Two were for lack of fit. The third: lack of wits. I interviewed for a position at a Certain Catholic University (CCU). I'd earned my Ph.D. from a research-focused institution during a time when they hired several faculty. Having observed this process, I thought I knew what to expect. I was ready to discuss my publications, works in progress, and future research plans. But CCU is **teaching-focused**. The chair noted how impressed they were that I'd written a book chapter with a prominent scholar. This also impressed me, since I hadn't done it. Before I could clarify, the chair expressed surprise that I wasn't applying to "R1" schools. Interpreting this as concern that I wouldn't stay at CCU, I hurried to affirm that I was looking for a permanent job. I made several regrettable statements, including that I "wasn't trying to become famous" — a statement of my desire to stay at CCU that actually sounded like "I'm quite lazy." Not the impression I wanted to give.



After a few more gaffes, I had a break. It was a sunny day, so I took a walk to clear my head. I thought I could salvage the interview until I walked into the classroom to give my "job talk," which I'd assumed would be research-based. Imagine my surprise (panic) when I walked into a master's degree course with only two faculty present to give my well-prepared talk about "Structural Equation Modeling." It did not go well.

Adding insult to injury, back in my hotel room I realized my head-clearing walk had resulted in a head-blistering sunburn (I'm rather white, with more hair on my chin than my head). I thought about the classroom housing my ill-fated talk and the crucifix above the door; I probably looked like I'd been charred by the cross.

My story has a happy ending. The next year, I had an interview at a Certain Public University that was as good as the CCU interview was bad, and got the job. Learn from my failure. Know your audience. Make sure your CV is crystal clear. Learn to improvise without overcompensating.

Bring sunscreen. ■

*Editor's note:* This article was written for the "SNP Conference Report," a publication that highlights conference activities by and for students and new professionals. Watch for links later this year. For more about SNP activities and a list of the SNP Leadership Council members, visit [www.ncfr.org/snp](http://www.ncfr.org/snp).

## Religion and Family Life Section

by Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE, Section Chair, [jroberts@hsutx.edu](mailto:jroberts@hsutx.edu)

The Religion and Family Life section would like to play a significant role in promoting the study of religion and family life. As a section in an interdisciplinary organization, we provide a unique forum for the latest scholarship from a variety of disciplines.

Our primary vehicle for doing this is the NCFR Annual Conference. The Religion and Family Life Section had 22 outstanding proposals submitted for the 2012 conference, and while we are pleased with the

quality of the proposals submitted, we know that there are a number of professionals who could add to the breadth and depth of our conference offerings.

We would like to encourage you to start thinking about submitting a proposal to the 2013 conference. If our goal is to become a leader in the dissemination of research on religion and family life, then our conference offerings should reflect the foremost research in the field. ■

## Spring honors graduates

The following graduating NCFR student members earned NCFR Honors Recognition for spring term 2012:

Julie Renee Abell  
Jessica Arp  
Tammie J. Barron  
Mary Benedict  
Sarah Esther Blake  
Sarah June Carroll  
Amber Marie Collings  
Katie Jo Davis  
Kathryn Durham  
Audra Faust  
Alicia Gould  
David James Haefke  
Jennifer Harden  
Jacob N Harper  
Tracy R Hilger  
Mary ("Libby") Elizabeth Jennings  
Heather Lea Johnson  
Roberta Ann Johnson  
Nicole Kelly  
Claire Kimberly  
Alyssa Kunkle  
Amanda Lawrence  
Brittney Mack  
Monica Boudreaux McCann  
Angela Mayo Palomer  
Katherine Parkes  
Jazmine L. Powers  
Hannah Prim  
Marilyn Jewell Rush-Ossenbecm  
Alison Kristen Schmeer  
Amanda Scott  
Jessica Leigh Smith  
Ashley Brooke Stringham  
Jaclyn Marie Viera  
Camille Wade  
Michelle Willhelm

## NCFR Report - A member forum

The *NCFR Report* is a quarterly magazine for members designed to encourage member-to-member dialogue; to inform colleagues about our research and to discuss research application for practitioners and policy professionals. Through 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 *NCFR Report* have not been peer-reviewed. In the spirit of open debate and academic freedom, *NCFR Report* is a member forum for exchanging ideas. The opinions or findings expressed are those of the author(s), which may or may not represent the official position of NCFR as an organization nor the prevailing scientific consensus on the topic.

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

# 2012 NCFR Annual Conference in Phoenix

The theme for the 2012 NCFR Annual conference, “Families and Health,” is represented in major presentations about family violence, childhood obesity and public policy, research-to-policy initiatives, and aging families.

## PLENARY SESSIONS

### Interaction of Physical and Mental Health Responses to Family Violence: A Life Span Approach

Jackie Campbell, Ph.D., Anna D. Wolf Chair and Professor in the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Jackie Campbell has conducted research in the areas of family violence and health disparities related to trauma since 1980. She has received 10 major NIH, National Institute of Justice or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research grants and published more than 150 articles and seven books on violence against women. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Nursing and was a member of the congressionally appointed U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. Wednesday, Oct 31. Sponsored by the University of Maryland.



### Childhood Obesity: From the Family Dinner Table to Public Policy

Barbara Fiese, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign and Director of the Family Resiliency Center. Dr. Fiese’s research focuses on family-level factors that promote health and well-being in children. Under her leadership the Family Resiliency Center is engaged in numerous initiatives related to families, food, and child health, including Strong Kids, a



cross-disciplinary project to examine how genetic, family, community, child care provider, cultural, and media factors contribute to the development of childhood obesity, health behaviors, and health beliefs, and Shared Family Meals, a project designed to understand the economic, cultural, environmental and family-level factors that can lead to increasing the frequency and quality of family mealtimes. Thursday, Nov 1. Sponsored by the University of Illinois.

### Building Stronger Communities for Better Health: Moving from Science to Policy and Practice

Brian Smedley, Ph.D., Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The Institute’s mission is to generate policy recommendations on long-standing health equity concerns. Dr. Smedley was co-founder of The Opportunity Agenda, an organization dedicated to ensuring equity in health care reform. He previously served as Senior Program Officer in the Division of Health Sciences Policy of the Institute of Medicine, where he was Study Director for the IOM reports, *In the Nation’s Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce* and *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*. In 2004 Dr. Smedley was honored by the Rainbow/PUSH coalition as a “Health Trailblazer”; in 2002 he was awarded the Congressional Black Caucus “Healthcare Hero” award and the Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest by the APA. Friday, Nov 2. Sponsored by the University of Georgia.



### “Caregiving is Just What Families Do”: Challenges of Aging Families and Health

Sara Honn Qualls, Ph.D., Kraemer Family Professor of Psychology and Director of the

Gerontology Center at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Dr. Qualls is a practicing clinical psychologist who helped establish the CU Aging Center in Colorado Springs which provides mental health services for older adults. She has published six books on mental health and aging, including *Aging Families and Caregiving*. Her research focuses on family development and clinical interventions for later life families, innovative approaches to senior housing, and applied technology interventions to improve well-being of older adults. She is a fellow of both The Gerontological Society and The American Psychological Association and recipient of the ARC Professional Contribution Award. Saturday, Nov 3. Sponsored by the University of Minnesota.



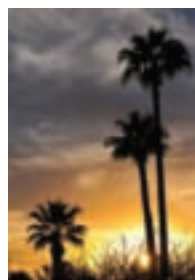
### Additional special sessions and symposia

Topics are still under development but tentatively include the following:

- Family Science and Public Health, academic integration
- Immigrant health
- Families, religion, and health
- Military families
- Family therapy and health
- Health disparities between demographic groups
- Transgender adolescents

### Earlier-than-ever “Early bird registration” ends June 30

The deadline for discounted “early bird” registration has been moved up one month for 2012. The deadline for registration at this reduced rate is June 30. Rates increase about 10 percent on July 1. Late/on-site registration starts October 7. Register as early as possible. ■



**in this issue:**

**Family Focus on...  
Teaching Family Science**

## Remembering Carl

by Cindy Winter, Conference Program Consultant, former NCFR Conference Director, [cindywinter@ncfr.org](mailto:cindywinter@ncfr.org)

Carl Williams was a very special and beloved husband, father, grandfather, relative, and friend. We mourn his passing. He fought the good fight, finished the course, and now there is laid up for him a crown of life. He is with the Lord, but there is a huge hole for all who are left behind.

I first met Carl in 1978 when the National Council on Family Relations had our Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Carl was working at Drexel University at the time. Dr. Sara Taubin, a professor at Drexel, was on the Local Arrangements Committee and she asked Carl to help us with the audiovisual needs at the NCFR conference. Carl did a masterful job, giving 200% to the task. He made everything run so smoothly. We found out that he had taken vacation time to help us.

At the end of the week we asked him if he would be willing to help us at the next year's conference, which would be in Boston. Carl enthusiastically said yes, that he would be happy to take vacation and come and help us out. He then came every year after that. In fact, he was in Orlando at the 2011 conference last November helping all that he could, as sick as he was. Every year he drove hundreds and thousands of miles to come to our conference, bringing a jam-packed van loaded with equipment that saved NCFR thousands of dollars in equipment rental from hotels. I can't think of any equipment that he didn't have in his stash. He was always looking for ways to save NCFR money in A/V costs. He worked 15 to 18 hours a day, without complaint, being proactive and making so many friends of NCFR members.

If a problem arose, we just called Carl, and he'd immediately come to the rescue.

In addition to his vast technical knowledge, Carl endeared himself to all of us. He had a great sense of humor that made the long hours of work enjoyable for everyone. We had lots of laughs and many precious memories. In 2003, at the Vancouver conference, everyone was so impressed with his work, that when Customs was trying to prevent him from coming to Canada to work for us, the Canadian consulate, hotel staff, and others went to bat for us and for Carl to enable him to get through Customs so he could help at our conference. Carl joked that as his wife, Minnie, was praying that they would get through Customs, he was praying, "Let me go back home." Of course he was joking, because he was so committed to NCFR that he would never let the organization down. I was so grateful that Minnie was able to come along with him to the conferences so that we got to know her, too, and she and Carl could enjoy time together as they drove to and from the sites.

Carl and Minnie both had such a beautiful faith in God and family that just radiated from them. I know that Carl's love for the work in God's kingdom was unparalleled. He was willing to help everyone. Through the NCFR conferences, Carl met the Hutchinson family, who own and operate Christian Audio Tapes. They were so impressed with Carl's work and knowledge that they called him to tape sessions at the Eastern Christian Convention for many years, but if these conventions were at the same time as NCFR, he worked for us, no matter how far away they were from Philadelphia.

To save NCFR money, Carl began bringing his son Matt to the conferences to videotape our sessions. In 2007, when I was going to be retiring full time from NCFR, Carl also decided that he should start mentoring someone to eventually take his place, and he hand-picked Chris Griffin. Chris began coming with Carl then and has come every year since. Neither Carl nor I totally retired from NCFR and we still kept coming to work at the conferences. Carl was a good mentor to Chris, and NCFR is now grateful that Chris will capably continue the work. This just shows more of Carl's character, as he wanted to do the very best work and he wanted to train others so that when he didn't come, everything was ready to continue. Carl truly cared for everyone and wanted only the best.

God broke the mold when he made Carl; he was one of a kind. I imagine him up in heaven, troubleshooting all the computer systems up there and making everyone feel special. May all of us left here follow in Carl's footsteps and give ourselves totally to God's work so that those behind us will find us faithful. This is the best way that we can remember and honor him. Carl, I will never forget you. Thank you for blessing my life. We look forward to seeing you in heaven.

May God's love enfold Minnie, the children, and the grandchildren during these difficult days. ■



*Carl Williams, pictured here with Cindy Winter, was formally recognized in 2007 for 30 years of service to NCFR.*