

Families and Spirituality

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In the Family Focus section of this issue of *NCFR Report*, your colleagues examine families and spirituality from many perspectives.

Insert: 2013 Annual Conference Call for Proposals

Next issue: Global families



Scenes from the annual conference

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Report

of The National Council on Family Relations

Mission Statement for the Report:

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

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

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Honors Graduates – 2012

Julie Renee Abell, University of Central Oklahoma

Jessica Arp, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Tammie J. Barron, Oklahoma State University

Mary Benedict, Messiah College

Sarah Esther Blake, California State University-Sacramento

Heather Burton, Utah Valley University

Sarah June Carroll, Brigham Young University

Amber Marie Collings, Weber State University

Katie Jo Davis, Indiana State University

Kathryn Durham, Samford University

Audra Faust, Samford University

Alicia Gould, Messiah College

David James Haefke, University of Illinois

Jennifer Harden, Samford University

Lauren Hardy, Illinois State University

Jacob N. Harper, Weber State University

Tracy R. Hilger, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Jessica Howell, Weber State University

Mary (“Libby”) Elizabeth Jennings, Oklahoma State University

Heather Lea Johnson, Samford University

Roberta Ann Johnson, Utah Valley University

Nicole Kelly, Illinois State University

Claire Kimberly, University of Kentucky

Alyssa Kunkle, Messiah College

Amanda Lawrence, Messiah College

Brittney Mack, Stephen F. Austin State University

Monica Boudreaux McCann, Oklahoma State University

Jenna Neal, University of Florida

Angela Mayo Palomer, University of Arizona

Katherine Parkes, Messiah College

Justin Petkus, Central Michigan University

Jazmine L. Powers, Samford University

Hannah Prim, Stephen F. Austin State University

Marilyn Jewell Rush-Ossenbeck, Miami University

Alison Kristen Schmeer, University of Florida

Amanda Scott, Miami University

Jessica Leigh Smith, University of Florida

Courtney Stocks, University of Florida

Ashley Brooke Stringham, Weber State University

Paige Thornton, East Carolina University

Kaitlin Tregle, Southeastern Louisiana University

Jaclyn Marie Viera, Stephen F. Austin State University

Camille Wade, Weber State University

Shainna Warren, Illinois State University

Michelle Willhelm, Anderson University

Our NCFR family includes Beth and Jim Van Horn, of State College, Penn. They consider their two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Cocoa and Pumpkin, a part of the family, too. According to Beth, “Cavalier King Charles Spaniels adapt to any household, active or sedentary. They are good family dogs.”

Both Beth’s and Jim’s careers have been at Penn State University. Beth is an Extension educator and Jim is a professor emeritus. Beth and Jim have been married 26 years and are now empty nesters. When their five kids left home, the two dogs arrived. Jim and Beth have both been dedicated friends of NCFR. Jim was one of the original committee members that launched the CFLE. Beth is a past chair of the Education and Enrichment Section.



**Our NCFR
family**



The health of NCFR and its members

by Elaine A. Anderson, Ph.D., NCFR President, eanders@umd.edu

I have just returned from the NCFR's 74th Annual Conference in Phoenix. It was wonderful for me to spend a day with the President-for-a-Day Award winner, Amanda Williams, a doctoral student at Oklahoma State. Most importantly, I extend a special thank you to my own colleague Leigh Leslie, Program Chair. She and her Conference Program Committee planned and organized an excellent meeting that was stimulating and timely. Our many sessions around the theme "Families and Health" were important for numbers of reasons.

Each of us was reminded of the importance of our own health and the health of others around us. By the time that most of you are reading this column, we will be heading into a new year, but we want to continue to extend our best thoughts for the health and well-being of our friends and colleagues on the east coast most impacted by Hurricane Sandy. We wish them all the best as they and their communities work toward recovery in the ensuing weeks. For those of you who could not attend the conference, NCFR live-streamed all plenaries and special sessions this year. All NCFR members are able to view the content of these important presentations at <http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2012/watch-and-listen>.

The plenary speakers as well as the many paper, poster, round table and other sessions offered by you, the members, helped us understand the far-reaching role that health plays in our lives. Many of our speakers identified cutting-edge research to help us better understand health behaviors and health implications. We particularly saw the critical role that families play with our health. Further, our speakers challenged us to move our work into the programmatic and policy arenas. Finally, we were afforded the opportunity for multiple discussions about the fields of family science and health. As many of our work sites are becoming more multidisciplinary, we are faced with trying to answer some remaining and some new

questions regarding the state of family studies and the shared future of family science and public health. We began some of those conversations at this conference.

The conference also reflected the beginning work of several Board initiatives during 2012 . . .

The International Section worked closely with the Board International Subcommittee to recognize and specially welcome any international attendees. Thirty-one international attendees from 11 countries participated in the conference. In addition to a Welcoming International Visitors area in the Gathering Place, the International Section facilitated a mentoring/matching opportunity for each international attendee with a mentoring partner to help navigate the meeting. We hope to continue to expand the NCFR international linkages this next year.

Through our conversations with members, we know that you would like more training on policy education and advocacy. The Board Policy Subcommittee will be working with the Family Policy Section leadership to identify future activities.

Finally, the Board has been working to enhance and expand the role of our sections. Many sections partnered for the first time with each other to offer symposia highlighting a multidisciplinary approach to studying and understanding our health problems. We saw renewed energy in the sections as they discussed new conference session formats, fund raising, and other section activities. The Board will continue to work with all of our sections as we move several new initiatives forward.

NCFR remains a healthy organization. Our financial situation is quite stable, allowing us to undertake some new actions which you will be hearing more about over this next year. Our conference continues to attract many family scholars, professionals, and students, with the number of attendees consistently among the highest over the past decade.

Last, our three premier journals continue to have an impact. The renewal rate is doing very well with the subscriptions increasing worldwide. The Board looks forward to expanding our work with you the members for another good year. We also thank the staff for the critical role they play in the success of our conference and the organization and for helping all of us do our work. We are excited to celebrate with all of you throughout this 2013 year—the **National Council on Family Relations 75th anniversary year**—culminating in a wonderful conference next November in San Antonio. ■

Thank you donors

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

Louise Alderson
William D. Allen
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Sandra Stith
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7/1/2012 - 9/30/2012

Vote and nominate!

by Alan C. Acock and Laura A. Sanchez, NCFR 2013 Elections Council Co-Chairs

Get involved in the leadership of your organization!

The vitality of NCFR depends on the dedication of its members to serve in leadership capacities at various levels of the organization. The charge of the Elections Council is to identify people who are willing to commit their time and energy for leadership positions. Please consider how your skills and gifts might benefit NCFR. In turn, we are quite sure that you will gain valuable leadership experience and will grow personally as well as professionally. Here are two ways to be involved.

VOTE

. . . in the upcoming election (February 2013)

The Elections Council wants to encourage all members to vote in February 2013. We have submitted a nomination slate (ballots will be emailed to members in February 2013) for terms that will be filled at the end of the national meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in November 2013. The nominees are:

Board President-Elect (2013-2015) - President (2015-2017)

William D. Allen - MN vs Tim Biblarz - CA

Board Member-at-Large (2013-2016) - (two positions)

Karen Guzzo - OH vs Hilary Rose - Canada
Frank D. Fincham - FL vs Stephen M. Gavazzi - OH

Affiliate Councils President-Elect (2013-2015) - ACB President (2015-2017)

Tommy Phillips - MS vs Rebecca J. Ward - PA

Student/New Professional Board Representative-Elect (2013-2014) - SNP Board Rep (2014-2016)

Rachel Engler - TX vs Lauren McClain - KY

Program Chair-Elect (2013-2014) - Program Chair (2014-2015)

David R. Johnson - PA vs Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth - IN

Elections Council (2013-2016) - (two positions)

Gladys Hildreth - TX vs Ramona F. Oswald - IL
Mick Cunningham - WA vs Dan Hoyt - NE

Fellows Committee (2013-2016) - (two positions)

Alan Booth - PA vs Stephen Jorgensen - MO
Katherine Allen - VA vs Linda Burton - NC

IDC Chair-Elect (2013-2014) - Chair (2014-2016)

Lee Ann De Reus - PA vs Soyoung Lee - NJ

IDC Board Member-at-Large - 2013-2016) - (two positions)

Aaron VanPelt - NV vs Ruben Viramontez Anguiana - OH
Katherine (Kate) Kuvalana - OH vs Angela Nievear - TX

IDC Student/New Professional Representative (2013-2015)

Jada Brooks - MD vs Anthony James - OH

NOMINATE . . .

yourself/others; nominations due January 31, 2013 (February 2014 Slate)

The Elections Council encourages all members to apply for or nominate others for the February 2014 slate. Nominees must have current membership in NCFR.

As you think about who would serve NCFR well, remember that we are a multidisciplinary association—one that serves researchers, college faculty, practitioners, and students. A slate of candidates that reflects the membership helps engage more people in the election process.

Professional interests are another consideration in filling leadership positions, and our members' occupation titles reflect that: demographers, social workers, Certified Family Life Educators, college faculty and administrators, extension outreach agents, clergy, marriage

and family therapists, pre-K/12 teachers, and more.

NCFR is committed to inclusion in creating opportunities for members to hold office. Candidates are sought that will reflect that commitment to diversity in culture, race, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, spirituality and personal beliefs, ability/disability, marital status and family structure, geographic location, and social and political views.

See the Nomination Information section of the NCFR website for more details about eligibility, forms, and the work of the Elections Council, <http://www.ncfr.org/about/board-directors/ncfr-elections-process/nominations-information>.

Keeping this in mind, we invite self-nominations and nominations of others for the following positions for the **next slate to be elected in February of 2014**. The terms for these positions **will begin November 2014** at the end of the annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Board Member-at-Large - 2014-2017 (three positions open)

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

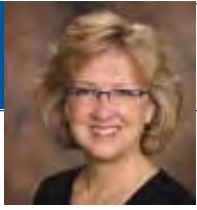
Conference Program Chair-Elect - 2014-2015 (Program Chair for 2016 Conference)

Serves one year as Conference Program Chair-Elect, proceeding to Program Chair the following year and has primary responsibility for selecting the theme for the Annual Conference and selecting plenary and other special speakers with the help of the NCFR staff.

Elections Council Members - 2014-2017 (two positions open)

It is the responsibility of the Elections Council to prepare a slate of nominees for officers and members of the Board of Directors, Student/New Professional Board Representative positions, Fellows Committee, Program Chair-elect, Elections Council positions, the Inclusion and Diversity Committee

vote and nominate continued on page 5



If there were a Wikipedia page for famology, what would it say?

by Diane Cushman, Executive Director, dianecushman@ncfr.org

Around the NCFR office this past year we have talked a lot about the sustainability of the field of family science. Sometimes we call it family studies, sometimes we call it human development and family studies (HDFS), but the conversation is the same and revolves around: the future of the discipline, the viability of degree programs, the employability of undergraduates, and the future of NCFR.

vote and nominate

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mittee positions, and to ensure that the policies regarding recruitment as provided by the NCFR Bylaws, and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures are followed.

[Student/New Professional Program Representative - 2014-2016](#)

Serves a two-year term as a member of the Annual Conference Program Committee, member of the Student Award Committee, has several Annual Conference responsibilities, and assists in networking students and new professionals.

[Inclusion & Diversity Committee Member-at-Large - 2014-2017 \(three positions open\)](#)

IDC Members-at-Large will serve to assist IDC to respond to the needs and desires of NCFR members. The Members-at-Large will help the committee send updates on the work of IDC via webpage postings, NCFR Reports, and other effective venues of communication. The Members-at-Large will provide information and suggestions to IDC, ensuring that information is documented via a report.

Again, become involved in leadership positions of our organization. Consider what your involvement will be. Send nominations to Jeanne Strand at jeannestrand@ncfr.org. For additional information, please review the NCFR website, www.ncfr.org. **Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2013.** ■

While NCFR is a multidisciplinary professional society, over half of its members are employed by a university program, are students in a university program, or employed as family professional in some capacity. Family science/studies is the core discipline of NCFR. However, there's a difference between a core discipline and a field of study.

Although there are over 50 different department names for family science/studies in NCFR's membership database, there is not one single term that represents our field – a field that is at the intersection of the research and practice about which the members of NCFR are so passionate. So it was with great interest that I attended the “Famology” (Dead), “Family Science” (Life Support): How is “Family Studies” Doing? session at the 2012 annual conference in Phoenix.

Lawrence Ganong, Ph.D., Professor and Co-Chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Human Environmental Sciences, University of Missouri, assembled a blue ribbon panel of NCFR members to discuss the very issue about which the staff and NCFR board had come to see as a great challenge. Anisa M. Zvonkovic, Ronald M. Sabatelli, Randal Day, Stephan M. Wilson and Stephen M. Gavazzi engaged a standing-room-only crowd of colleagues in a discussion about the past, present and future, about our identity or lack of it, about our relevance and irrelevance, and about whether it's too late to lay claim to a field of study and the discipline at the nexus of which is family.

I've thought a great deal about that session, reviewed my notes and those of other NCFR staff, and I've come to see our challenge as similar to the blind men and the elephant. Six blind men; each one with his hands on a different part of an elephant. The man who feels a leg says the elephant is like a pillar; the one who feels the tail says the elephant is like a rope; the one who feels the trunk says the elephant is like a tree branch; the one

who feels the ear says the elephant is like a hand fan; the one who feels the belly says the elephant is like a wall; and the one who feels the tusk says the elephant is like a solid pipe. Not one of the six is able to experience all parts of the elephant and it's only when they share their experience that they are able to determine what they have before them.

To the panel Dr. Ganong posed three questions: What makes us unique as a field? What is our core identity? What do we call it?

Dr. Zvonkovic talked about administrative structures, local politics, changes affecting all areas of social science (not just ours), the importance of maintaining positive relationships with allied disciplines, social capital, and that the future of research in this field is in “robust” good health.

Dr. Sabatelli remarked that he is “bullish” on the field as a whole — that the emphasis in the academy is on interdisciplinary work which we know well. He said the focus in today's academic communities is on solving real problems and that, for example, 80 percent of health care costs are chronic health issues such as obesity which is a family issue. He talked about translational scholarship and suggested that the solutions are “working in the context of family.”

Dr. Day asked what happened to “Famology” and suggested that “branding” is the key to a successful discipline. He reminded us that NCFR's Family Science Section was created to promote the study of family.

Dr. Wilson suggested that “we can no longer lay claim to family” and asked if there is a discipline. He shared his concerns about our need for clarity, our lack of identity and the challenges students, donors and others have in finding us. He called for national visibility and was the first but not the only panelist to proclaim that the opposite of a clear identity is irrelevance.

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PhD and MA/PhD Programs in Family Studies

Making a difference in the lives of families, children and communities

The PhD and combined MA/PhD programs in Family Studies at Montclair State University promote the well-being of all types of families across the life span, across cultures and throughout the world through research, scholarship, advocacy, prevention and intervention.

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ncfr
catalyzing research,
theory and practice



First webinar draws over 160 participants!

by Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE, Education Director, dawncassidy@ncfr.org

NCFR hosted its first webinar in September and it was a great success! *An Introduction to Ethical Thinking and Practice for Family Professionals: A Case Study Approach* featured an introduction to the Minnesota Council on Family Relations' ethical thinking and practices process.

The free webinar was developed and presented by three NCFR members: **Mary Maher, MSW, LPE, Bill Allen, Ph.D., and Beth Gausman, MS, CFLE.** All three have been involved in offering Ethical Thinking and Practice workshops throughout Minnesota.

Over 162 people attended the webinar which was broadcast live on September 6, 2012. An archived version is available for viewing and classroom use at <http://www.ncfr.org/professional-resources/ethical-thinking-and-practice-webinar>.

This was the first of what promises to be many more webinars offered through the National Council on Family Relations. NCFR is planning to offer many more in 2013 including a track of webinars focused on topics of interest to those teaching in academia and another track geared toward those working in the field. We are also considering webinars focused on how to submit a proposal to the NCFR Conference and how to submit an article to the NCFR journals. The possibility of topics is endless. We plan to charge for some topics and provide others at no cost.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions for appropriate webinar topics or if you are interested in offering a webinar. Most webinars should be between sixty and ninety minutes and can include PowerPoint slides with voiceovers. The webinars will be hosted by NCFR but can be presented from your home or office.

Over 60 Submissions Received for FLE Month Contest

2012 marked the second year where NCFR held a Family Life Education Month Contest. February is Family Life Education Month. The intention of Family Life Education Month is to increase awareness of the value

and importance of family life education as a method to strengthen and support families.

The contest provides a way to engage family science students and professionals in the development of materials that can be used to promote family life education and Family Life Education Month. The ultimate goal is to create a press kit that can be made available to family agencies and organizations throughout the country. The FLE Month Press Kit will provide family professionals with tools to promote family life education month in their community.

Over 62 submissions were submitted representing six different schools and two entries submitted by individuals. Following is the results of the submissions to five different categories:

Best Fact Sheet

Michelle Smith – California State University – Sacramento

Professor – Jean Ann Moylan

Best Tag Line/Slogan

Combined winner – (tag line from one submission; graphic from another) *Tagline* submitted by Adrian Jackson, Kayla Rimirez, Michelle Smith, and Leslie Rubalcava

Combined with *graphic* entry from Kendall Beerman, Justine Wilcoxson, Kathy Sengvanhpheng and Nina Bateyko. Both groups of students were from California State University – Sacramento
Professor – Jean Ann Moylan

Best Activity List

Two winners:
Aldar Nommik – Andrews University
Professor – Alina Baltazar
Leslie Rubalcava – California State University – Sacramento
Professor – Jean Ann Moylan

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Dr. Gavazzi, the final panelist to speak, shared his vision that one solution to our challenge is through leadership. He suggested we become more intentional in developing leaders; as department chairs, deans, provosts, and university presidents. He said we either prepare our own leaders or our future will be determined for us. He reminded us that we have fewer than 30 doctoral programs and that we need to train our next generation of leaders. He asked us, "If you don't like change, how are you going to like irrelevance?"

A lively question and answer session followed the presentation and concluded with a call for additional conversations.

Along the way the story was told how 30 years ago a prominent NCFR member proclaimed the term "famology" in a session much like this one. For whatever reason, it didn't take hold. Now, 30 years later, Dr. Ganong, in perhaps a similar session, posed similar questions. Someone asked whether we'd be around in 30 years.

According to Wikipedia, the word "gerontology" was coined in 1903, by Ilya Ilyich Mechnikov, to describe the emerging study of aging and longevity. "Geron" is the Greek word for "old man." "Logy" means study of. I imagine some folks were skeptical and thought the word would never stick. Others might have questioned the scientist's motivation. Regardless, nearly 110 years later the field of gerontology still exists, known universally as the study of the social, psychological and biological aspects of aging. The Gerontological Society of America just held its 65th annual conference, in San Diego, California, where they welcomed over 4,000 attendees from multiple disciplines and from around the world. Check out "gerontology" here <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerontology>
Are we ready to come together, behind the leadership of Dr. Ganong and other interested NCFR members, and create a term that describes the study of the social, relational, psychological, emotional, and developmental aspects of family? ■

cfle directions

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Best Press Release

Katrina Brown and Katie Leigh Mardis –
Samford University
Professor – Jonathan Davis

Best Newspaper Article

Brittany Lindley - Samford University
Professor – Jonathan Davis

NCFR will sponsor the FLE Month Contest again in 2013. Eventually NCFR will create a press kit promoting FLE Month representing the best of the winning entries. Information on the 2013 contest will be posted on the NCFR website (CFLE News) soon.

Family Life Education and the Affordable Care Act

The passing of the Affordable Care Act brings an opportunity for new attention and support to preventive efforts related to health and well-being. How can we work together to make support of parent and family life education by insurance providers a reality? This

topic was the center of a Focused Dialogue session at the NCFR Annual Conference. The session was facilitated by **Ellen Taner of Taner Associates**. Invited participants included representatives from parenting education, Cooperative Extension, work/life, substance abuse prevention, policy making, research, health and wellness organizations, faith communities, and several colleges and universities. Other NCFR Conference attendees observed the discussion and had the opportunity to contribute and react at the end of the formal discussion period. The conversation continued during a reception generously provided by **Iowa State University Extension and Outreach to Families**. The enthusiasm was such that it provided the focus of conversation at the CFLE Forum meeting later that evening.

The conversation was extremely rich and lively and a number of excellent ideas were presented. The Focused Dialogue format provided a great way for all invited participants to weigh in on the subject through a variety of lenses including *research, funding sources,*

policy making, technology/media, and *partners* as it relates to parenting and family life education and the Affordable Care Act.

This session was just the beginning of what promises to be an ongoing effort. NCFR will continue to be involved in this exciting work. A new column in the *CFLE Network* newsletter, will provide a quarterly update by Taner Associates regarding progress, efforts by the Focused Dialogue participants and other colleagues, as well as recommended information for CFLE's to explore. Now is the time for the profession of family life education to be recognized, funded, and utilized from "womb to tomb." Feel free to send inquiries or relevant information to Ellen Taner at tanerassoc@gmail.com subject: ACA. ■

2013 NCFR Annual Conference



Well-being of
Children and Youth
in Families and Communities

by Judith Fischer, Ph.D., Program
Committee Chair, judith.fischer@ttu.edu

How do family professionals understand the well-being of family members who are children and adolescents? For the 2013 conference, I would like to bring together all of us (researchers, practitioners and program evaluators, policy makers, community members, etc.) to examine the well-being of child and adolescent family members. The multidimensional concept of well-being is associated with individual characteristics, family and social contexts, political and historical contexts, and their interactions. The conference should empower and inform participants to take the next steps to better understand and enhance the well-being of children and adolescents, and, in turn, their families and communities.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Deanna Pollard Sacks, J.D., a children's civil rights attorney
- America Bracho, M.D., M.P.H., a pediatrician and community activist/organizer
- Stephen Russell, Ph.D., a researcher on LGBT and minority youth and an NCFR member
- Kristin Moore, Ph.D., a social psychologist who studies trends in child and family well-being an NCFR member
- Dudley Chancey, Ph.D., an outreach program leader for at-risk children in Honduras

Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators designated between July 1 and September 30, 2012. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

Alabama

Jessica Pelfrey

California

Carlene Fider
Whitney Harris
Juyoung Jang
Susan Loomis
Scott Williams FULL
Fan Yang

Colorado

Elizabeth Borck FULL

Florida

Alexandra Antonescu FULL
Alison Schmeer

Georgia

Akilah Richards FULL

Idaho

Loni Dansie
Alexis Staeb

Illinois

Nancy Heath FULL
Bethanne Shriner FULL

Indiana

Leroy Quashie FULL

Iowa

Michelle Henny

Kansas

Deny Cacy
Emily Eugster
Kristen Mikulan
Kiara Ohle

Louisiana

Danielle Bias
Reneé Goudeau

Maryland

Lauren Cole
Kelsea Griesser
Luke Miller
Sarah Milligan
Timothy Shu
Melissa Stewart
Chantell Whitaker

Massachusetts

Julia Steinberg

Michigan

Matthew Allison
McKenna DeGraw
Stephanie Harr
Heather Hart
Rhonda Snook
Amy Tetreault-Blok

Minnesota

Jacklyn Milton

Missouri

Charlette "Nikki"
Whitaker FULL

Montana

Angelique Coleman

Nevada

Kasey LaFoon

New Jersey

Rachael Shaffer

New York

Jennifer Getty

North Carolina

Elizabeth Allwine
Rhonda Cutler
Ashtin Dicochea

Ohio

Tiffany Creary
Sheri Garman
Theresa Hagarman
Kellie Kaweck
Amanda Knowlton
Stephanie Lochtefeld
Rachel Ritter
Kaitlynn O'Brien

Oklahoma

Samantha Carlton
Olivia Reid

Pennsylvania

Isaac Tarbell

Rhode Island

Phyllis Penhallow

Texas

Judi Bradetich FULL
Rachel Coberly FULL
Amy Duggan FULL
Erron Huey FULL
Waketha Jolley FULL
Katherine Lindley
April Oden-Cortez
Hannah Prim
Valerie Serna
Marilyn Thomas

Utah

Michelle Burton
Mindy Hendelman
Roberta Johnson
Taryn Mendenhall

Virginia

Sarah June Carroll

Canada

Ontario
Natalie Howson



Genealogy—the other kind of family research

by Nancy Gonzalez, CFLE, Editor, nancygonzalez@ncfr.org

Last Labor Day weekend, I spent some time with members of my family. I mean very old family members. I mean *really* old family members. I mean relatives who have been dead for decades! Ancestry.com, a leading genealogy website, had a free research weekend over Labor Day. They have the 1940 U.S. Census in searchable format now. (Not even census.gov has it available yet.) I have been interested in my family history for over 15 years but have not been able to devote very much time to it yet. In 1997, through a connection made with a third cousin in Stockholm, I visited Sweden to look up my roots. Don't let the name "Gonzalez" fool you—that name was a wedding present. I am 100% Swedish American. More on this later.

Genealogy is a popular hobby, if reality TV is any indication. Two series this past year focused on family genealogy. On PBS, Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., hosted "Finding Your Roots." His investigators researched the family histories of public figures such as Sanjay Gupta, Martha Stewart, Condoleezza Rice, Samuel L. Jackson, Stephen Colbert and many more. You can watch these videos at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/finding-your-roots>. Similarly, NBC just finished its third season of their genealogy program, "Who Do You Think You Are?" Celebrities including Martin Sheen, Helen Hunt, Rob Lowe, Reba McEntire and a whole star-studded list of subjects have had their family genealogy traced. Watch these online at <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are>. In both series, I have found it impossible to tear myself away from these compelling stories. I don't want to be a spoiler and ruin any of these episodes' conclusions. What is universal, however, is how every person they researched had a "surprise" of some kind and how they all were intensely interested in the information. Some laughed. Some looked as if they were on the verge of tears. Clearly, for most, this new information had a meaningful effect on them. There's a whole subset of human development research and theory on identity. How many of us could

find some added meaning to our existence by finding out who our ancestors were? My favorite ancestor was my great-great grandmother, Maria. She was born in 1841 in northern Sweden and lived most of her life there. She had three children: a son, Nels Alfred (my great grandfather), and two daughters, Katherine and Frieda. Frieda stayed in Sweden, but Nels Alfred and Katherine emigrated just after 1900. Their mother Maria came with them. She was in her 60s at the time. They settled in northern Minnesota. The most interesting thing about Maria is that nobody knows for sure who the father of her children was.

In other words, I have a great-great grandfather somewhere who fathered Nels Alfred. Who was he? Why wasn't he a part of their lives? This is where genealogy gets really fascinating. Sometimes you follow one lead and get nowhere. Then, sometimes, as it was for me, with a little circumstantial evidence you can make some educated guesses.

Great-great grandma Maria never married. This we know. According to the Swedish census about the time she was having babies around 1870, she listed her occupation as a domestic worker. My cousin researched the records for the father of all three children, and none was named. When I was in Sweden, my cousin and I visited this local parish, where the old birth records are maintained, and we talked to the minister. Swedish birth records are known to be remarkably complete. The minister confirmed this and told us that putative fathers were almost always listed, even if it was embarrassing information. We asked the minister why no father is listed for Maria's three

children. He got an interesting look on his face, as if he'd answered this question before—awkwardly. He said that in most of these cases, the father was the one keeping the records. In other words, the father was probably the parish minister at the time. Following that lead, we got the name of that minister and looked him up in the Swedish records. Maria was the domestic worker for that minister. He had no children and his wife was listed as an "invalid."

Maria's obituary from 1924 lists her as a "Mrs." Obviously the "Mrs." was either a social gift or she told people that she was

married back in Sweden and people took her at her word. She died in a tragic way at age 82; she froze to death. She had bad eyesight and got lost during the night walking in subzero weather. The family legends about her have filtered down here and there. I was told that the father of all three children was the same person. I was told that the reason she emigrated as an older woman was that "the reason to stay there no longer existed." (Did her partner die?) She lived in her own one room shack on her daughter Katherine's

property. I was told that she helped build that shack and that she wanted to live by herself. Who knows exactly what's true?

What difference does it make? Not much. Nothing in my day-to-day life has changed. But I am proud that I'm the descendent of a strong woman. The few facts I have about her tell me a lot. Any unwed mother in rural Sweden circa 1870 had to be as tough as nails. Her "Scarlet Letter" no doubt left her

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FREEZES TO DEATH

Mrs. Mary. Wicklund, aged 83 years, who has made her home near the home of her daughter Mrs. Dan Strandberg five miles east of Strathcona for a number of years, during last Thursday night with the thermometer close to 25 below, arose and dressed, and it is supposed she started for her daughters house.

Due to failigg eyesight she evidently missed the house and in the morning was found about 800 yards from the home.

Funeral services will be held Fri. at 11 o'clock at Strathcona. Besides 15 grand-children one son, Nels Wicklund and two daughters, Mrs. Strandberg and Frieda Anderson the latter of Sweden survive her.

with the hide of a rhinoceros. She emigrated late in life—she was willing to make a dramatic change. And she wanted her own space, enough so that she refused to live with her adult children.

Some pieces of family information matter to me while it may not matter to anyone else. My parents had twins, a boy and a girl, born prematurely 11 years before I was born. They only lived a day and were never named. My parents rarely spoke of them. The irony is that I found out about these siblings when the 1970 Census worker was sitting at the kitchen table with my parents. I was in the next room and overheard the conversation. I heard my mom tell the Census worker that they had two children who were dead—it was devastating to hear that accidentally. I asked my mother about them then, and occasionally thereafter, and she would only give one word answers—it clearly was not something she wanted to discuss. One thing she stressed to me multiple times, however, is that they had been baptized. A nurse baptized them immediately in the delivery room. This is the kind of information that is really interesting and it speaks to someone's belief system. My mom thought it was more important that they were baptized than that they were named.

The U.S. Census from 1940 was just made public last April. Census records are sealed for 70 years to make sure that any family secrets are kept until most everyone in the household is dead. On Labor Day weekend, I used the free weekend membership to find out if another family legend was true. I was told that one of my grandfather's sisters fled a horrible domestic violence situation. The 1940 Census had the answer, albeit via circumstantial evidence. In 1940 she had a married name, she was 24, and she had a 5-year-old daughter. They were both living with her father, the aforementioned Nels Alfred, my great grandfather, and no husband was with her in that domicile. I was delighted to see that I had another resilient woman in my past! At age 24, she had gathered enough strength to leave an abusive husband and take her daughter with her.

One piece of advice I would give younger genealogy enthusiasts is to “start early.” I began interviewing elderly relatives when I was in my early 30s. If I started now, it would be a lot harder—maybe impossible—to track down this much information. Genealogy archives are already established in public records all over the world and, with the internet, these are getting more accessible

every day. If all you want are names and dates, there's no hurry here. What is lost quickly are all the stories about what people were like or stories such as my siblings' baptism. By the third generation, the oral history begins to fade fast. Write everything down. Take photos of people who are alive and photos of headstones if they aren't.

Family genealogy research can tell us important medical information. Death certificates list the cause of death. Other health information may be something that you only suspect. Maria was visually impaired later in life. Did she have diabetes? It runs strongly in that branch of the family. There is almost no cancer in my family, but diabetes and alcoholism have touched each generation. Having a few years of health information can be useful. Since many diseases have a genetic basis, knowing one's family history can help you be on guard for regular health screenings. It's also interesting to read about one's ancestors and note personality traits or areas of interest. One of my great-grandfathers was civic-minded; he hosted, in his home, the first meeting in which the little town of Strandquist, Minnesota, was incorporated. I love politics

and civic engagement! Could this be why?

What I take from family research is not just “who they were,” but also, by inference, “what might I have the capacity to become?” Might I have inherited a distinctive trait from one of my ancestors? When I am facing one of life's challenges, I often think about Maria. Might I have inherited some of her moxie? Maybe I can be like her. I can be strong. I can be independent. I can make changes in my life at any age. After all, I've got at least 170 years of life experience.

Epilogue

How can you find out whether you are susceptible to the genealogy bug? Here's a free test. Go to findagrave.com. Enter information about a family member—or even a deceased celebrity—into the search engine. Did you find something interesting? Do you want to know more? If so, congratulations! You have a new hobby! I would love to hear your stories about the surprises you find. ■



Religion and Family Life Section



by Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE, Chair, jroberts@hsutx.edu

Greetings from the Religion and Family Life Section! By the time you read this our conference in Phoenix will be over. The section had several impressive paper and poster presentations as well as an outstanding special session. At our business meeting two awards were presented. The first was the award for the Professional Outstanding Paper. This was presented to Michael Goodman, Brigham Young University. The title of his paper was “Religion and Transformative Processes in Marriage: A Qualitative Study.” His co-authors were David Dollahite, Loren Marks, and Emily Layton. The second was the award for the S/NP Outstanding Paper. This was presented to Yaxin Lu, Louisiana State University. The paper title was “The Role of Chinese Christian Church in Chinese Immigrant Families.” Co-authors were Loren Marks, Loredana Apavaloaie, and Zahrah Alghafli.

Our next annual conference will be in San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio is a beautiful city with a rich history and culture. The Religion and Family Life Section officers

strongly encourage you to submit a proposal to our section for the 2013 conference. Our goal is to double the submissions of both professionals and S/NP.

The Religion and Family Life Section continues to collect syllabi for courses that address issues related to religion and family life. We encourage anyone who teaches such a course to send your syllabus to me and I will forward it to the appropriate person. If you know of a course someone else is teaching, please send me contact information for the instructor.

This *Report's* Family Focus highlights some of the major issues and areas of research related to families, religion, and spirituality. The members of the Religion and Family Life Section are pleased to have this opportunity to share our interests with the members of NCFR. Religion matters to people in profound ways. From the Chick-fil-A controversy this past summer to the deaths and riots this fall related to the inflammatory anti-Islam film, religion brings out strong emotional responses in people everywhere.

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Feminism and Family Studies Section



by Elizabeth Sharp, Section Chair,
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Updates from the 2012 Conference

At the 2012 conference, section members united in our celebration of Alexis Walker, the founder of the FFS section. During our meeting, we had a visual and oral tribute to Alexis and her strong, palpable legacy and members were given buttons in honor of Alexis. On behalf of our section, I want to extend gratitude to the planners of the Alexis Walker celebration: Katherine Allen, Sally Lloyd, and Elise Radina.

We had several FFS sponsored and co-sponsored sessions and events...

- A sponsored special session “Transgender Youth,” presented by Kim Pearson.
- Kimi Crossman and Kristen Benson (S/NP’s) planned and implemented the feminist mentoring program.
- Libby Blume (chair elect) gave considerable time and energy to the Jessie Bernard scholarships and presented our Jessie Bernard awards at the conference.
- The FFS section promoted green posters and we had a lively feminist theory discussion.
- Finally, we held a wildly successful live auction! We owe gratitude to Janel Leone (secretary/treasurer who planned and oversaw the auction), Lisa Taylor (past chair and our auctioneer extraordinaire!), and Megan Haselschwerdt and Russel Toomey (previous S/NPs) for their assistance during the auction.

More about the auction from FFS Secretary/Treasurer Janet Leone: The FFS Section raised over \$2,100 at the FFS Live Auction held after the section meeting on November 2. The money raised goes directly to the Jessie Bernard Scholarship Fund for S/NP’s feminist proposals and papers. Members donated signed books, mentoring sessions, feminist memorabilia, artwork, and many other fantastic items. Faculty and students alike took part in bidding on these, and celebrating the significance and value of our feminist roots! ■

Family Therapy Section news



by Christi McGeorge, Chair, *christine.mcgeorge@ndsu.edu*

The Family Therapy Section had an exciting section meeting this year. We heard from both the Student and New Professional paper award winners as well as engaged in an interactive speed networking activity.

The winner of the student paper award was Lindsay Edwards and her paper was entitled “MFT training in sexual minority issues: A core faculty perspective.” The winner of the new professional paper award was Ryan Seedall and his paper was entitled “Emotional Congruence within Couple Interaction: The Role of Attachment Avoidance.”

I am also excited to announce the winners of our Student and New Professional Poster Awards. Amy Claridge won the student poster award for her poster “Predictors of Supportive Co-Parenting: Impact of Social Support and Abortion Consideration.” Erika Grafsky won the new professional poster award with her poster entitled “Understanding Substance Use among ‘Healthy’ Sexual Minority Youth.” I would like to congratu-

late all of the winners and thank all of the reviewers who so graciously volunteered their time.

At the conclusion of the conference, a new leadership team took office: Christi McGeorge (chair), Shayne Anderson (chair-elect), Rachel Tambling (secretary/treasurer), and Lindsay Edwards (student/new professional representative). We are excited to be working with the members of the section for the next two years.

At the conference next year, NCFR will be celebrating its 75th anniversary and the Family Therapy Section will be awarding the second Kathleen Briggs Mentoring Award. In recognition of the Kathleen Briggs Mentoring award, we will be engaging in a very special mentoring activity during the section meeting. Finally, please remember to prepare those submissions for the next conference (due March 1, 2013). I hope to see y’all in San Antonio for what is sure to be a truly fantastic conference. ■

Anselm Strauss Award

The Anselm Strauss Award recipient for 2012 is Jennifer Davis, Dr. David B. Ward, and Dr. Cheryl Storm. The award is named for Anselm Strauss, whose life’s work was to develop and practice qualitative methodologies. This award, presented by the Qualitative Family Research Network, a focus group of NCFR’s Research and Theory Section, recognizes significant work in the area of family theory, methods and/or research that comes from a qualitative tradition.

Ms. Davis and Drs. Ward and Storm were honored for the collaborative work on an empirical research article titled “The Unsilencing of Military Wives: Wartime Deployment Experiences and Citizen Responsibility,” which was published in the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* in 2011. Members of the Qualitative Family Research Network who served on the awards committee noted several important strengths of this research project that made it worthy of this prestigious award. Specifically, the committee noted that: (1) the choice of data collection procedures was particularly attuned with the unique aspects of exploring the experiences of military wives; (2) the depth

and clarity of discussion of procedures was particularly notable and (3) the thoughtful discussion of the use of action research, the role of the researcher as research instrument, and data analysis was particularly impressive.

Ms. Davis graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English and in Speech Communication from Trinity University and a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from Pacific Lutheran University. At Pacific Lutheran University, Ms. Davis has focused her research efforts on studying the military family unit during deployment.

David Ward is Chair and Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy at Pacific Lutheran University. He received his Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Texas Tech University, his M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Virginia Tech, and his B.S. in Family Science from Brigham Young University. He is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Cheryl Storm, Ph.D., is a Couple and Family Therapy Supervision and Education Consultant in Sunriver, Oregon, and a Professor Emeritus, Pacific Lutheran University. ■

Tips for getting more involved with NCFR



by Cass Dorius, SNP Conference Program Representative, 2011-2012, cdorius@umich.edu

One of the easiest ways to make NCFR your academic “home away from home” is to become invested in the organization throughout the year. For me, becoming involved meant volunteering to help with the conference sessions designed for students and new professionals (SNPs). The yearly workshops on getting into graduate school or finding the perfect job are a great resource for students, and I wanted to be part of the process and do some good along the way. As a new graduate student I volunteered to chair and preside at several SNP sessions. This gave me the chance to figure out how conference sessions worked, as well as meet new people so the conference felt less lonely.

Later I was asked to be a panelist for some of the workshops, which gave me experience in presenting to a large audience. In my final year of graduate school I ran for a national SNP position where I would have the chance to select topics for the sessions. Being the conference program representative was an invigorating and exhausting experience that helped me to learn invaluable skills in working with a team, meeting deadlines, and thinking outside of the box. Whether you choose to follow a similar path or find one that works just for you, there is a place for you at NCFR.

As the outgoing SNP Program Representative, I have had the chance to work with many amazing students and new professionals who

have chosen to invest in NCFR in non-traditional ways. One of the most successful examples from last year’s conference was the introduction of the Gathering Place, a cyber café and lounge where students and new professionals can meet up and hang out. The idea for this area came after talking with several people, including a graduate student named Amanda Williams who wanted a place for SNPs to get together informally during the conference. This met my larger goal of promoting a sense of community among students and new professionals, as well as the suggestions from various faculty members about training future leaders and university affiliates. With the help of NCFR staff like Charlie Cheesebrough, Judy Shultz, and Jason Samuels, we put together all of these suggestions into one great idea: an area that draws students in for informal lunchtime discussions on affiliate and leadership topics, provides food and snacks for starving students, and gives free internet access. The room was a huge success during its inaugural year (2011) and will be a fixture of future conferences. But most importantly, it wouldn’t have happened without people sharing their ideas, even though they didn’t have an official NCFR leadership position.

This same type of investment can be seen throughout the conference program in 2012. The SNP sessions are often created based on feedback from students who came up to me and said “You know what I think would be a great...” and then tell me what they would like to see in future years. Just because you don’t know me (or the incoming representative Ron Cox), doesn’t mean that we don’t want to talk with you about your interests and ideas. We care about your ideas, so send an email or tweet your suggestion to #NCFRSNP. Whatever your method, keep your great ideas coming!

For other suggestions on how to get more involved, we asked seasoned student and new professional representatives Marissa Stone (Family Science Section), Andrew Behnke (SNP Board Representative), and Alisha Hardman (Education and Enrichment Section) to share their thoughts on making the most of your time at NCFR. Alisha’s article about the proposal submission and review process is included here. Articles by Andrew and Marissa will appear in the Spring 2013 issue of *NCFR Report*. ■

Writing, submitting, reviewing conference proposals



by Alisha Hardman, CFLE, SNP Representative, EE Section, 2010-2012, hardm016@umn.edu

Before you begin, you should:

- Take advantage of information provided on the NCFR website. (<http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2013/presenter-and-proposal-resources>).
- Utilize the Call for Proposals which outlines criteria for proposals and provides a very useful “Checklist for Submitting a Proposal.”
- Do not procrastinate. Give yourself adequate time to prepare your proposal.
- Ask a fellow student, colleague or mentor to review your proposal prior to submitting.
- Follow the instructions provided on the Call for Proposals regarding proposal length and elements that should be included in the proposal.

The proposal should:

- Begin with a summary of the thesis of your proposal.
- Articulate a strong connection to existing research and theory.
- Describe the research or practice methodology employed.
- Discuss results, as well as the potential impact and implications.
- Write clearly and organize logically with complete references provided.

Proposals submission: Proposals are submitted to a specific section of NCFR. Make sure

that the content of your proposal is a good fit for the interests of the section you submit to. For example, S/NPs should not submit their proposals as S/NP sessions unless their proposal addresses the professional development of students and new professionals.

Volunteer to be a Conference Proposal Reviewer:

- *Who:* Students and new professionals can serve as conference proposal reviewers!
- *What:* Volunteer to serve as a reviewer. Each section (including the S/NP section) will solicit proposal reviewers so pay attention to the section listservs for the call for reviewers, which typically go out in February. If you are a member of multiple sections choose one section to review for and respond to the reviewer request e-mail providing the requested information.
- *When:* Conference Proposals are due the first of March so the review process typically occurs during the middle to end of March. You will receive an e-mail containing a link to the proposals you are responsible for reviewing. Reviewers are typically given a few weeks to complete the reviews, which take only a few hours to complete.

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Awards 2012

Awards to members and other scholars and practitioners in family-related areas are an important part of the work of NCFR. As an organization, we congratulate these deserving recipients for awards presented in 2012.

You are encouraged to nominate members or to apply for NCFR awards. Most awards include recognition at the annual conference, sometimes a cash award or travel stipend, and a plaque. The awards brochure will be included in the spring issue of *NCFR Report*.

Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award

The 2012 recipient of the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Award is Katie Lowe.

Her dissertation is titled "Parental Involvement during the College Transition: Trajectories and Associations with Academic Success, Well-being, and Individuation."

Lowe's dissertation proposal indicates that she will gather evidence regarding the role that parental involvement may play in either facilitating or inhibiting successful development, both academically and developmentally, among emerging adults who transition to college as part of their journey toward adulthood. Lowe's work will employ a prospective longitudinal design to examine characteristics of parental involvement in college, assess trajectories of parental involvement across the college transition, and examine the concurrent association of parental involvement with students' academic achievement, well-being, and individuation during the college transition.

Ms. Lowe's dissertation proposal was selected because of her strong research plan and strong application. Her research will contribute important theoretical implications for identifying the characteristics and trajectories of parental involvement across the college transition.

Ms. Lowe is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Purdue University. Her research interests include understanding connections among parent factors, classroom context, and adolescents' academic achievement. ■



Katie Lowe

John and Harriette McAdoo Award

McAdoo Award winner Christiana Awosan, a marriage and family therapist and a doctoral candidate in couple and family therapy at Drexel University in Philadelphia, examines the primary research question: How do never married, heterosexual black men and women between the ages of 25-35 describe and interpret their experiences in attempts to cultivate and maintain intimate romantic relationships?

Relevant sub-questions that will be explored are: (1) What are black men and women's attitudes regarding the influence of socio-cultural, socio-historical and institutional factors such as the legacy of slavery, gender role socialization, internalized racism and stereotypes, etc., on their coupling processes? (2) In what ways, if any, do these factors impact their experiences in their attempts to

develop and sustain intimate non-marital romantic relationships? (3) Do participants desire to be involved in a secure intimate romantic relationship and/or marriage?



Christiana Awosan

As eminent scholars and educators, the late Drs. John and Harriette McAdoo made significant contributions to the scholarship on ethnic minority families, especially our understanding of African American familial experiences. The purpose of the John and Harriette McAdoo Dissertation Award is to provide support for the completion of an approved doctoral dissertation with a focus on issues impacting ethnic minority families. ■

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- **Where:** In the comfort of your own home or office! You just need a computer, internet access, and an e-mail address!
- **Why:** Serving as a conference proposal reviewer is a great way to become more involved in NCFR. It is also a great CV builder as your contribution to a professional organization shows potential employers that you are committed to the field. Additionally, the experience of reviewing can benefit your own future proposal sub-missions as you gain a better sense of what reviewers consider when they score proposals.

- **How: Review and score proposals . . .** reviewers will review submitted annual conference proposals via NCFR's online review system. A reviewer may expect to review an average of three proposals (though this may vary). Read the abstract, use the criteria provided by NCFR to score the proposal, and enter your score into the online system.

Skills of an effective reviewer: A good critical eye, an analytical frame of mind, familiarity with the subject, and a willingness to provide constructive criticism are key skills necessary to produce a high caliber review. ■

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These reactions make it clear that religion influences people at both the personal and public level, and it follows that religion matters in the lives of our families.

In Annette Mahoney's (2010) decade review of research on families and religion, she categorized the ways in which religion has been found to influence family life. These include the formation, maintenance, and transformation of family relationships. It has also been found that religion has the potential to impact families in both positive and negative ways. Mahoney concludes her review with the acknowledgement that there remain gaps in the literature, questions about theory and methodology, and issues of relevance for family types. Her findings remain relevant today.

Just over a year ago, members of the Religion and Family Life Section met with NCFR staff to discuss the possibility of starting a journal on family, religion and spirituality. Although there is a great deal of interest in creating a new journal, it was felt by many that there is still work to be done before moving in this direction. We hope this Family Focus issue stimulates interest, raises questions, generates discussion, and leads to more research so that families may benefit from the insight gained as we learn more about the interaction of family, religion, and spirituality. ■

REFERENCE

- Mahoney, A. (2010), Religion in Families, 1999–2009: A Relational Spirituality Framework. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72: 805–827.

Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring

The Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring winner is Alexis Walker, Ph.D. Chosen as the recipient in June, Dr. Walker died in July. The award was presented posthumously at the annual conference to her partner, Cindy Noble, and her brother, Robert Walker.

Dr. Walker was Co-director for the School of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences and the Jo Anne L. Petersen Chair in Gerontology and Family Studies at Oregon State University. The Berardo Award was established by the family of the late Felix Berardo who credited much of his success to the devoted guidance of his mentor, F. Ivan Nye.

Dr. Walker served NCFR in many capacities including as president from 1994-1995 and conference vice chair in 1991. She was recognized as an NCFR Fellow in 1998; was editor of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*; and was one of the co-founders of NCFR's Feminism and Family Studies Section.

Dr. Walker's award nomination dossier is replete with praise from those she has mentored.

"I first met Alexis in the classroom where I was dazzled by her organization, her preparation, high expectation of students and her extensive knowledge of the field . . . With guidance from Alexis, I learned a lot about myself as a student and researcher. Alexis

pushed me to think outside my social location and to be a stronger critical thinker in my teaching, research and writing. I strive to be the professional, colleague and mentor that Alexis was for me every day. Her participation in my life during graduate school and today has been far reaching." Jana Meinhold, Ph.D., CFLE, assistant professor, Portland State University

"Dr. Walker spent countless hours helping me learn to write professionally, especially in regard to APA format, and for this I am known in the Washington State University College of Nursing as the 'APA Queen.' I credit Dr. Walker's research mentoring for my continuing funded research about the needs of families of children with special healthcare needs. . . . Her influence has stayed with me as I now mentor doctoral students and young faculty. I hope someday to make the kind of difference for a student or faculty that Dr. Walker made for me." Linda L. Eddy, Ph.D., RN, CPNP, associate professor, Washington State University College of Nursing

"Alexis was a demanding professor, but so gentle in her teachings. . . . She allows you to explore, take your time in the ideas and setting up the correct method, but then puts just the right amount of heat on you to fire you back up. In this way, I feel like Alexis forged my

spirit of hard work and helped me to celebrate the small achievements with an eye always on the big picture." Cheryl Peters, Ph.D., program evaluation specialist, Michigan State University Extension



Alexis Walker

"Alexis sends her mentees streaming off into the world to do good work, and they do just that. In this way, the generativity of her mentorship creates a clear micro-to-macro effect, spreading outward in ever growing circles of influence as her students eventually pass on their accumulated experience and wisdom to their own mentees, often helping to bring about structural change in their environments. Thus Alexis Walker has become an innovator, change agent and mentor for many." Elizabeth Bayler Levaro, Ph.D., assistant professor, University of Wisconsin-Stout

"As dean, I am so inspired by the quality of our faculty and the powerful ripple effect they create by mentoring the next generation of faculty. I am proud of Alexis and congratulate her for being a mentor for all of us in all aspects of our lives." Tammy Bray, dean, College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Oregon State University ■

Reuben Hill Award

The Reuben Hill Award recipients for 2012 are Drs. Thomas J. Schofield of the University of California-Davis (UC-Davis); Rand D. Conger of UC-Davis; Katherine Conger of UC-Davis; Tricia M. Neppel of Iowa State University; M. Brent Donnellan of Michigan State University; and Monica J. Martin of UC-Davis.

The Reuben Hill Award is sponsored by NCFR's Research and Theory Section. It is given annually in recognition of an outstanding article that combines theory and research methodology in the analysis and interpretation of a significant family issue.

The award-winning article, "Intergenerational Transmission of Adaptive Functioning: A Test of the Interactionist Model of SES and Human Development," was published

last year in the scholarly journal, *Child Development* (Volume 82-33-47). This exquisitely designed study

examines the viability of the Interactionist Model of Socioeconomic Status and Human Development for explaining child outcomes. The model integrates the social causation perspective (i.e. the argument that socioeconomic circumstances influence well-being) and social selection perspective (i.e. the argument that individual characteristics impact both socioeconomic conditions and future personal and relational well-being) to propose that individuals and their social con-

texts reciprocally shape each other over time.

This research significantly advances our understanding of the interplay among socioeconomic status, family environments, and individual development, and suggests multiple pathways for improving child outcomes. ■



Thomas Schofield



Rand Conger



Katherine Conger



Tricia Neppel



M. Brent Donnellan

Ernest Burgess Award

The NCFR Ernest Burgess Award for 2012 is given to Dr. Rand Conger, University of California-Davis.

The purpose of the Burgess Award is to recognize a distinguished career in the field of family research and scholarship. The award is given in memory of Ernest W. Burgess, University of Chicago, an NCFR co-founder and fourth president. Dr. Burgess was a pioneer in his contributions to marriage and family research in America.

Dr. Conger is a prolific scholar best known for his work on the effects of economic hardship on parenting, family processes, and child and adolescent development. As his primary scholarly contribution, Professor Conger formulated and tested the highly influential Family Stress Model which postulates that economic hardship disrupts both the marital relationship and effective parenting practices, which in turn negatively impact the socio-emotional development of children and adolescents.

Professor Conger and his colleagues developed the Family Stress Model with the Family

Transitions Project in Iowa, a study of over 500 Euro-American families who were experiencing the farm crisis in the late 1980s, a longitudinal study that continues to this day. Professor Conger and his colleagues extended this research with two additional long-term longitudinal studies, the Family and Community Health Study, a study of over 890 African-American families living in Iowa and Georgia, and the California Families Project, a study of 674 Mexican-origin families in central California.

Professor Conger has garnered over \$50 million in extramural grant support. He has also served key leadership positions in the field by chairing a National Institutes of Health (NIH) study section and serving as member on NIH and National Institute of Mental Health strategic planning committees that developed institutional priorities for research. ■



Rand Conger

Jesse Bernard Awards

The Feminism and Family Studies Section presented Jessie Bernard awards in feminist research to Lori Kinkler and Hyun-Kyung You. Both awards are presented in memory of Jessie Bernard, former NCFR President and pioneer in the field of Feminist Family Studies.

Lori Kinkler is winner of the Jessie Bernard Award for Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective for "Lesbian, Gay, and Heterosexual Single Adoptive Parents by Choice: Perceived Stigma, Challenges, and Support." Ms. Kinkler is a doctoral student in clinical psychology at Clark University. She is interested in how social categories such as gender, sexual orientation, and race contribute to one's experiences, challenges, and sometimes, stigma.



Lori Kinkler



Hyun-Kyung You

Hyun-Kyung You, Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Studies at Central Michigan University, received the Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award for "The Intersection of Motherhood and Disability: Being a 'Good' Korean Mother to an 'Imperfect' Child." She received her doctoral degree from Oregon State University in 2009. She is interested in the study of the dialectic interaction between agency and sociocultural systems with the social constructionist and feminist perspectives. ■

NCFR Student Awards

The 2012 NCFR Student Award has two co-recipients, Mallory Lucier-Greer of Auburn University and Amanda Williams of Oklahoma State University. This award is given to NCFR graduate student members who have demonstrated excellence as a student with high potential for contribution to the discipline of family studies.

Mallory Lucier-Greer recently completed her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University. During her tenure at Auburn, Dr. Lucier-Greer coordinated research efforts for the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative, instructed multiple undergraduate classes and fulfilled the requirements to become a licensed marriage and family therapist. In the future, Dr. Lucier-Greer hopes to explore the mechanisms of couple resiliency. This work is intended to move beyond studies of couple stability to examine how personal characteristics, family factors, and broader social supports influence the trajectory of the couple relationship.

Amanda Williams is a doctoral student at Oklahoma State University. Ms. Williams's research focuses on young adults' risk and resilience with emphasis on social media technology, homelessness, and health risks behaviors. During her tenure at Oklahoma State University she has been involved in a number of funded grant proposals, coordinated numerous research projects in the areas of homelessness, social media, parent education, adolescent school success and obesity. Ms. Williams intends to continue to explore risk and resilience as it relates to the use of technology by adolescents, emerging adults, and their families. ■



Amanda Williams



Mallory Lucier-Greer

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. To join NCFR, click on our convenient on-line membership application at www.ncfr.org. Journalists with media inquiries are invited to contact Nancy Gonzalez at 763-231-2887 or via email at nancygonzalez@ncfr.org for information on our scholarly research.



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in this issue:

**Family Focus on...
Families and Spirituality**

Additional Section Awards

Education & Enrichment Section

Student Proposal Award

Dina Izenstark – University of Illinois

Student Proposal Award

Alicia Nicoleau – Loma Linda University

Student Proposal Award

Nicole Thomte – University of Nevada,
Las Vegas

Ethnic Minorities Section

Student/New Professional Best Paper Award

Jocelyn R. Smith – University of Maryland

Family & Health Section

*Outstanding Professional Paper/
Publications Award*

Hui “Cathy” Liu – Michigan State
University

*Outstanding Student/New Professional
Paper Award*

Russell B. Toomey – Arizona State
University

Family Policy Section

*Feldman Outstanding Research Proposal
for Research in Family Policy*

Jennifer Hall – University of Chicago

Family Science Section

Wesley Burr Graduate Student Scholarship Award

Jaimee Hartenstein – Kansas State
University

Soomi Lee – Yonsei University

Yolanda Mitchell – Kansas State University

International Section

Jan Trost Award

Masako Ishii-Kuntz - Ochanomizu
University, Tokyo, Japan

International Travel Scholarship

Jaerim Lee – Yeungnam University,
Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea

Religion & Family Life Section

Outstanding Paper Award

Michael Goodman – Brigham Young
University

*Student/New Professional Outstanding
Paper Award*

Yaxin Lu – Louisiana State University

Family Therapy Section

Best Research Paper Award – Student

Lindsay L. Edwards – University of
Connecticut

*Best Research Paper Award – New
Professional*

Ryan Seedall – Utah State University

Research & Theory Section

*Best Abstract by a Student/New
Professional Award*

Antoinette M. Lander

*Men in Families – Best NP Research
Article Award*

Sarah Elizabeth Killoren – University of
Missouri

Kimberly A. Updegraff – Arizona State
University

F. Scott Christopher – Arizona State
University

Adriana Umaña-Taylor – Arizona State
University

*Men in Families – Best Research Article
Award*

M. Katherine Hutchinson – Boston College
Julie A. Cederbaum – Boston College ■



Affiliate Councils Awards

Affiliate Councils Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper

Janeal McCauley – Lamar University;
“Defining Family: Perspectives of
Homeless Adults in Southeast Texas”

Affiliate Councils Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research Paper

Heather Johnson – Samford University;
“Serious Mental Illness and Family
Functioning”

Affiliate Councils President-For-A-Day Award

Amanda L. Williams, Oklahoma State
University

Affiliate Councils Award for Meritorious Service

This award is given to NCFR members who have been active in affiliate councils and provided a significant leadership role.
Dr. Jonathan Davis – Samford University