

## IN THIS ISSUE

### *Family Focus: Bridging the Research-Practice Divide*

Translating rigorous Family Science research into “real life” supports and tools for families demands intentional efforts to bridge the science of discovery and the science of practice. In this issue of Family Focus, the contributing authors illustrate the successes, complexities, and lessons learned when scientists bridge the research-practice divide.

### In the News:

Nominate and Vote for NCFR's Next Leaders, 2

Our Continuing Quest to Answer the Important Questions, 3

Moving Bravely (and Cautiously) Ahead Into 2022, 4

Wisdom for Parents Funds CFLE Scholarship, 5

Moving Conference Receptions Virtually, 6

Member Q&A with Rachel Sullivan, 8

2021 Award Recipients, 10

## 2022 NCFR Annual Conference

Nov. 16-19, 2022

*Light and Shadow: Shifting  
Perspectives and Families*

Proposals due March 1, 2022  
[ncfr.org/ncfr-2022](http://ncfr.org/ncfr-2022)

## Katherine Allen Named Next Editor of NCFR's *Journal of Family Theory & Review*

NCFR is delighted to announce that **Katherine R. Allen, Ph.D.**, has been named the incoming editor of the *Journal of Family Theory & Review* (JFTR), one of NCFR's three family-research journals. She will begin a 4-year term as editor of the peer-reviewed, quarterly journal—which publishes original contributions in all areas of family theory—with the publication of its March 2023 issue.

The editor search committee was impressed by Dr. Allen's extensive list of creative ideas to innovate JFTR, possible future topics, potential authors, and “her unbridled enthusiasm for the editorship.” Dr. Allen will succeed current editor, Mark A. Fine, Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Allen is professor emerita of human development and Family Science at Virginia Tech, where she has served on faculty since 1989. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree and doctorate from Syracuse University.

Dr. Allen has contributed extensively to the scholarship of Family Science teaching,



**Katherine Allen**

*Allen Named continued on page 18*

## NCFR Olson Grant Announces 2021 Recipients

NCFR and David H. Olson, Ph.D., are proud to recognize **Ronald Cox Jr., Ph.D., Isaac Washburn, Ph.D., and Darcey deSouza, Ph.D.**, as the 2021 recipients of the NCFR Olson Grant: Bridging Research, Theory, and Practice. Now in its second year, this \$10,000 annual grant is available to NCFR members working to contribute creatively to the discipline of Family Science by effectively uniting research, theory, and practice in their work.

**David H. Olson, Ph.D.**, the namesake of the grant, is renowned for his many contributions

to Family Science as a scholar, teacher, therapist, and professional. He is an NCFR Fellow, professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota, and creator of the highly respected Circumplex Model of Couples and Families, which enables researchers and practitioners to examine a couple's relationship through their flexibility, cohesion, and communication skills. Dr. Olson also established the PREPARE/ENRICH program, used around the world for premarital education and marriage counseling.

*2021 Recipients continued on page 15*

## Mission Statement for NCFR Report

NCFR Report, the quarterly newsletter of the National Council on Family Relations, provides timely, useful information to help members succeed in their roles as researchers, educators, and practitioners. Articles address Family Science issues, programs, and trends, including association news.

**President:** Norma J. Bond Burgess

**Board Members:** Bethany L. Letiecq, Ruben P. Viramontez Anguiano, Jennifer L. Doty, Veronica R. Barrios, Lyndal Khaw, Soyoungh Lee, Shelley M. MacDermid Wadsworth, Robert Reyes, Roudi Nazarinia Roy

**Executive Director:** Diane Cushman

**News Editor:** Trip Sullivan

**Family Focus Editor:**

Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE

## How to contribute to the Family Focus section:

The Family Focus section of 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,
- 2) brevity due to space limitations, and
- 3) how articles form a complementary collection.

For information and guidelines, contact the editor, Ted G. Futris, Ph.D., CFLE at [reporteditor@ncfr.org](mailto:reporteditor@ncfr.org). *The contents of articles represent the views of their author(s), which may not represent the position of the entire organization.*

## How to advertise in NCFR Report

To advertise in NCFR Report, please see the specifications and price list at [ncfr.org/about/advertise-ncfr/ncfr-report](http://ncfr.org/about/advertise-ncfr/ncfr-report). NCFR reserves the right to decline any paid advertising at our sole discretion. Deadlines for each of the quarterly issues are:

Spring issue—Jan. 1  
Summer issue—April 1  
Fall issue—July 1  
Winter issue—Oct. 1

Send advertisements to Trip Sullivan at [tripsullivan@ncfr.org](mailto:tripsullivan@ncfr.org). For all submissions, please supply an email address to allow readers to contact you.

NCFR Report is published quarterly by the National Council on Family Relations  
661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
Toll free: 888-781-9331 Fax: 763-781-9348  
[www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org)

Third class postage permit. Reprints of this publication are available by contacting NCFR headquarters at the address above.

Copyright © 2021 National Council on Family Relations. All rights reserved.

Family Focus is part of NCFR Report, a copyrighted publication of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). No part of NCFR Report, including Family Focus articles, may be reprinted, reproduced, disseminated, or distributed by any means, including for classroom use, without permission of NCFR. Permissions are available through the NCFR website at [bit.ly/2LFmbc2](http://bit.ly/2LFmbc2). NCFR reserves the right to deny any permission at its sole discretion.

## VOTE & NOMINATE

# Get Involved in the Leadership of YOUR Organization!

Ani Yazedjian and Cassandra Dorius, NCFR 2021 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.

Leadership in NCFR offers many benefits and rewards, including:

- The opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise in ways that will help to promote the welfare of families and children.
- Status and recognition by local, state, national and international audiences.
- Networking and professional development opportunities

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.

## 1) VOTE in Upcoming Elections (February 2022)

The Elections Council wants to encourage ALL members to vote in February 2022. We have submitted a nomination slate (ballots will be emailed to members in February 2022) for terms that will be filled at the end of the national meeting in November 2022. The nominees are:

### Board Member-at-Large (2022-2025) – (2 Positions)

Kevin M. Roy  
Yan Ruth Xia  
Melissa A. Barnett  
Brenda J. Lohman  
Spencer James

### Elections Council (2022-2025) – (2 Positions)

Kale Monk  
Megan L. Haselschwerdt

Sarai Coba-Rodriguez

Todd Jensen

Vanja Lazarevic

### Fellows Committee (2022-2025) – (2 Positions)

Catherine A. Solheim

Kimberly A. Updegraff

Tammy S. Harpel

Scott S. Hall

Daniel Perlman

### Inclusion and Diversity Committee (2022-2025) – (2 Positions)

Yan Wang

Yolanda T. Mitchell

Deadric T. Williams

Henry Gonzales

Gilbert Ray Parra

### Students and New Professionals Program Representative (2022-2024)

Leslie A. Anderson

Amy A. Morgan

Allen Mallory

## 2) NOMINATE YOURSELF/OTHERS for February 2023 Slate (due January 31, 2022)

The Elections Council wants to encourage ALL members to nominate someone for the February 2023 slate. As you think about who would serve NCFR well, please give serious consideration to nominating yourself as well as others. Here are the Selection Criteria to help you decide whether you would be willing to be nominated and/or to identify potential candidates for the upcoming election:

### ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATIONS

- Current membership in NCFR
- Knowledge and/or experience in areas reflecting broad trends in human development, family science, marriage and family practice, sociology, and related professions

*Get Involved continued on page 16*



# Our Continuing Quest to Answer the Important Questions

*Norma J. Bond Burgess, Ph.D., NCFR President, norma.burgess@lipscomb.edu*

We have worked through the COVID-19 crisis with hope and anticipation for a better “normal”. To say we have a “new normal” does not do justice to what we have experienced. Societies changed as we endured a pandemic at a scale that most of us had never witnessed. Two years later, we are in a recovery unlike any other. Perhaps in the near future, today’s reality will not seem so strange.

Throughout all this, we have socially distanced so that we could protect ourselves and our loved ones and prevent spreading the disease. At one time, we thought the cure was upon us; in actuality, it was—until the Delta variant introduced itself to us with the fury of a cyclone. As you think back, I am certain that you cannot remember any time like the one we have just witnessed and experienced that took the world by storm.

Life is a journey unlike any other, and the experiences of the pandemic provided new meaning to us for living. How does thinking this way influence us all in one way or another? Precautions take place everywhere! We take extra care when we are in public and in our homes! We actually learned how to appropriately wash our hands and sanitize them for our health’s sake and for that of our neighbors, students, and fellow persons.

On many occasions as a professor, I have wondered back to my training as I tried to understand and explain phenomena that we continue to experience as families and societies. I finally concluded that some situations “simply are not in the book!” The answers for the questions that we pose are rare as we explore research opportunities and seek additional resolutions. As a curious graduate student, I remember inquiring of one of my professors—when is the question completely answered? His response was “When one ceases to ask why!” Professor J. Oliver Williams, of North Carolina State University, was wise in that way. Given that

we continue to pose questions, we evidently have much work to do.

As professionals who specialize in the study of families and the practice of working with them to solve problems, we have a lot to learn. Teaching the next generation what to do is a critical component of what our legacy will look like in the future.

Each time we address pertinent questions, others arise to test our thinking. This prompts us to further polish our skills, contribute to the toolbox, and take the next steps. The work is never done, and our scope continues to broaden as we develop new answers and applications.

**As a curious graduate student, I remember inquiring of one of my professors—when is the question completely answered? His response was “When one ceases to ask why!”**

The last few years provided fodder for consideration in significant ways. Unstated feelings, misunderstandings, and a lack of clarity about many subjects that had not been sufficiently resolved were not widely addressed in the schools that our children attended, and so they provided much kindling for scientists to develop solutions using more sophisticated approaches than before. Societal discussions about what should be taught in schools provided an opportunity for your NCFR Board of Directors to examine positions that needed attention and resolution, or at least comment. Conversations today about the status of tenure characterize where higher education might be in the future.

No doubt, many of these discussions continue to raise the mercury in the

thermometers, ire in the veins, and add salt to old wounds in their own way. Research topics are open for renovation since families and societies are dynamic in their own way. If this were not so, research and teaching would not take on new meanings. Scholars with the fluidity of the spectrum, generate much knowledge so that the work for new assistant professors and doctoral students spin rapid.

Topics for research in the coming years will reflect the status of where families are. I understand this task is usually the wherewithal of the major professor. However, once the dissertation is finished, the world is your oyster—so do select wisely. Your work will reflect your thinking about the future of families and their well-being. Your blogs, channels, and other communications will reflect your thoughts and extend beyond the classroom. For those starting YouTube channels, I understand—it is the big trend. Learning what readers want to read is a component for being here. Your work could spread more quickly and broadly than it can in journal publications—but will it count equally? Hot topics now include climate change and its impact on families; after twenty years, we are out of the war in Afghanistan so that one no longer works for discussion, though it may be of interest for researchers on the impact of the military on families.

Projecting research topics over the next two years will be interesting. Race relations within the U.S., I am sure, will continue to be an important component in collectively bringing peace to the nation. Finding a better “normal” post-COVID-19 will stimulate how we maneuver back to some aspects of pre-pandemic life. Rebuilding the economy so that lives can be lived, and children can catch up with their education—including in-person proms and graduations—and

*President's Report continued on page 18*



# Moving Bravely (and Cautiously) Ahead Into 2022

*Diane Cushman, NCFR Executive Director, dianecushman@ncfr.org*

Sometimes it's a good thing that we don't know what lies ahead. Had we known in March 2020 that we were about to face two years of a pandemic, we might have been challenged to keep on keeping on. But thanks to our many great leaders at NCFR, including 2020 Conference Program Chair Brad van Eeden-Moorefield and Board President Leigh Leslie, we have kept on.

I want to thank all of you who submitted one or more proposals to the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference. Our attendance figures are historically driven by your submissions, so our conference success lies in your willingness to continue to present your research at NCFR, even when we're virtual. We are incredibly grateful for the steady leadership of our 2021 conference program chair, Dr. Tammy Henderson, whose flexibility was put to the test at every turn. Dr. Henderson's vision responded not only to the health concerns of the pandemic but also to the tragic death of George Floyd and the resulting global outcry for racial justice. Thank you, also, to the conference planning committee, whose members who orchestrated the review and decision process for over 600 proposals.

Now we move on to NCFR 2022, scheduled for Nov. 16-19 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our program chair, Dr. Debra Berke, has been busy securing plenary speakers to bring to life the theme, "Light and Shadow: Shifting Perspectives and Families" (see [ncfr.org/ncfr-2022](https://ncfr.org/ncfr-2022)). At this time, we are planning to host the conference in person in Minneapolis, where we expect to follow industry standards and health recommendations, which may include masking and vaccinations. It's far too early to make any sort of predication other than to commit to hosting a safe conference.

In addition to health concerns, there are the realities of the global financial impact of the pandemic and where academia is in the recovery process. The meetings industry has experimented with several hybrid models of conference design—including simultaneous virtual and in-person programming—but in the end, it is far more costly to do a hybrid conference than either an in-person or an online-only conference. We'll remain open to creative solutions, although at this time we envision an in-person conference for 2022.

**We are incredibly grateful for the steady leadership of our 2021 conference program chair, Dr. Tammy Henderson, whose flexibility was put to the test at every turn.**

For many years, NCFR has offered livestreaming of featured sessions for a worldwide audience. We will continue to offer a livestream in some capacity once we return to in-person events. And while we may be able to invite a virtual audience to some of the business meetings, it will simply not be possible to offer both formats for every conference session.

As we resume our search for future conference sites, we find challenges everywhere: state laws that run counter to NCFR's diversity values, the rising cost of travel and of hotel facilities, and increasing violence in cities across the United States. For the first time in many years, we are pursuing a multiyear, multicity opportunity with a large hotel chain. NCFR's conference is relatively small in terms of income-generating potential for hotels that are large enough to provide the space we need for our sessions, so a multiyear commitment can

open up opportunities that otherwise might not be available to us. Stay tuned.

One outcome of the pandemic was the lightning speed with which the world embraced online learning. NCFR's webinar programs have been able to expand in number and variety of content. Attendance and engagement in NCFR webinars have remained high, and classroom license purchases have increased. The ability to expand our webinar program has enabled more NCFR members to showcase their knowledge and expertise in areas where there is a large appetite for learning. Recent highlights have been several webinars on racial justice and the launch of a 3-year series on quantitative research methods (see [ncfr.org/webinars](https://ncfr.org/webinars)).

Another silver lining in this pandemic cloud was the first-ever NCFR Family Life Education Summit (see [ncfr.org/fle-2021](https://ncfr.org/fle-2021)). With one virtual conference under their belts, NCFR staff felt confident that they could produce a second virtual conference. Thus, with the tested tools and experience, we saw the fulfillment of a long-held dream to host a conference for practitioners, on June 25. The conference was well attended, received high marks from participants, and will return in 2022.

As we turn the page on 2021, we look forward to a new year filled with grace, humility, health, and opportunities for families to learn and thrive. Thank you all for your contributions to the welfare of families around the world. ✨



# Wisdom for Parents Book Funds CFLE Scholarship

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

In 2011, Robert E. Keim, Ph.D., CFLE, and Arminta Jacobson, Ph.D., CFLE, edited the book *Wisdom for Parents: Key Ideas From Parent Educators*. The book includes a collection of nearly a hundred short articles contributed by Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs) who share their professional and personal expertise and advice about parenting. The summary chapter, written by Drs. Keim and Jacobson, and Jo Ann Engelbrecht, CFLE, includes parenting wisdom described in the book as “from writers and scholars spanning the past decades—wisdom that tends not to grow old, but still applies.” The book is sold through the NCFR Store and several online outlets, and it has been purchased by individuals and by several universities for use as a supplemental text for parenting courses.

Dr. Keim published the book at his own expense and generously donated the proceeds to help support the CFLE program. The CFLE credential is administered by NCFR and is recognized in the U.S. and Canada for Family Life Education professions. The program encourages applications from professionals who have preparation and experience in Family Life Education settings, including formal teaching, research and scholarship, community education, public information and education, curriculum and resource development, health care, military family support, and ministry. CFLEs have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree, and many have advanced degrees.

NCFR used the proceeds from *Wisdom for Parents* to create the CFLE Scholarship Fund. For the first few years, NCFR used the funds to support scholarship applications from CFLEs to cover their CFLE annual fee. The success of the book enabled NCFR to expand the scholarship fund to also include the application fee for first-time CFLE applicants.

We are sad to share that Dr. Keim passed away Dec. 20, 2020. He thoughtfully

bequeathed the book’s copyright to NCFR, which will allow for its continued proceeds to support the CFLE Scholarship Fund.

## Continued Wisdom for Family Life Educators

Much of the success of the *Wisdom for Parents* book is due to the value of the information provided in it by knowledgeable and experienced CFLEs. I thought of them

**There are currently 163 CFLEs who have been certified for more than 20 years and 62 who have been certified for more than 30!**

the other day when I was reviewing a list of CFLEs who have been certified for more than 20 years. There are currently 163 CFLEs who have been certified for more than 20 years and 62 who have been certified for more

than 30! I suspect that is unusual in the world of voluntary certifications, and it reflects the commitment that Family Life Educators bring to the field. As CFLEs, their training and experience has been supported with research and evidence-based practice. This, coupled with their many years of experience, has likely resulted in a lot of wisdom about the practice of Family Life Education.

We’ve worked to tap some of that wisdom through *CFLE Conversations*—regular online networking sessions that debuted in 2021. These provide an opportunity for CFLEs working in similar areas and around common issues to connect with and support one another under the guidance of an experienced facilitator.

Building off that success, and in recognition of the value of the contributions of the *Wisdom for Parents* authors, a new column, “Wisdom

*Directions* continued on page 18

## CFLE Scholarship Fund and Annual Fee Waiver

The Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Annual Fee Waiver and Scholarship were created to provide financial assistance to current CFLEs in paying 100% of the CFLE Annual Fee and 50% of the first-time CFLE application fee.

### CFLE Scholarship Criteria:

- Minimum of a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Training, education, and/or experience in Family Life Education
- Ability to articulate a need for financial assistance from NCFR

Applicants should apply for the CFLE Scholarship before submitting their CFLE application.

### CFLE Annual Fee Waiver Criteria

- Active CFLE status, provisional or full, at the time of application
- Meeting of all CFLE requirements, including submission of any recertification or upgrade materials and payment of fees currently due
- Ability to articulate a need for financial assistance from NCFR

One-time fee waivers and CFLE Scholarships are awarded to up to six CFLEs each year. The quarterly application deadlines are **Jan. 15, April 15, July 15, and Oct. 15**. Visit the NCFR website at [ncfr.org/cfle-scholarship-fund](http://ncfr.org/cfle-scholarship-fund) for information about the CFLE Scholarship Fund.



# 2021 NCFR Annual Conference— Moving Conference Receptions Virtually

*Jennifer Crosswhite, Ph.D., CFLE, Director of Research and Policy Education, [jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org](mailto:jennifercrosswhite@ncfr.org); With the help of NCFR's excellent staff: Maddie Hansen, Dawn Cassidy, Rosemary Johnson, Judy Schutz, and Trip Sullivan.*

Since the pandemic began, I have provided *NCFR Report* readers updates on the virtual conference process and have documented this historic time for our association. You might have wondered why I have been writing this series of articles. The answer is that *Report* has long been a place to discover the history of our organization.

I have found myself over the past 8 years returning to old issues of *Report* to discover NCFR's history, and I want the future leadership and organization members to continue to rely on *Report* for that history. In that vein, this article provides updates on the conference-planning process with respect to receptions, including the Newcomers Welcome.

## Newcomers Welcome Reception

The Newcomers Welcome reception is designed for anyone attending the conference for the first or second time. The purpose of the event is to help people get acquainted with NCFR leaders and all that the organization has to offer. When we have been in person in prior years, the reception was held in a ballroom during midmorning. Newcomers could easily navigate around the room and visit the tables to learn more about and network with the 10 sections, the NCFR organization, the CFLE program, the Students and New Professionals group, the focus groups, and the journals. Attendees were able to engage in a multitude of networking opportunities and enjoy an amazing brunch!

Then the pandemic hit. We had to quickly identify a way to offer a *virtual* high-energy networking event. Like the academic sessions, Zoom became an important part of the conference. For the 2020 NCFR Annual Conference, each of the groups that previously had an in-person table was

provided its own Zoom link to meet with attendees. Attendees could move in and out of the Zoom meetings to visit each table. A list of tables was provided in Whova so attendees knew what to expect when visiting each Zoom room. With this new setup, the event continued to be high-energy with great networking. The one issue that occurred was that most people went to the first table on the list and followed the order of Zoom rooms listed on Whova rather than randomly selecting Zoom tables as they would during an in-person event. As a result, leaders waiting in Zoom rooms that were further down the list in Whova did not meet any newcomers until halfway through the reception.

## When the pandemic hit, we had to quickly identify ways to offer our high-energy networking events in a virtual space.

For the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference, the Newcomers Welcome continued to use Zoom. This year though, there was only one Zoom link provided and we used breakout rooms. Attendees were all welcomed together at the beginning of the reception and provided an introduction from then-incoming NCFR President Norma Burgess. Dr. Burgess provided instructions to spread out through the tables (breakout rooms) and information on what to expect. Prizes were awarded for those who visited the tables (e.g., access to NCFR webinars, free NCFR 2022 conference registration, a free year of NCFR membership, and American Express gift cards).

## CFLE Reception

For more than 30 years, NCFR has hosted an on-site reception for the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) program at the NCFR

conference. It's always a popular and happy event that provides an opportunity for CFLEs to meet face-to-face to network, celebrate the successes of the program, and recognize committee and board members.

Holding the 2020 CFLE Reception virtually required quite a pivot from the face-to-face event. But it also provided the opportunity for CFLEs who had never attended the NCFR conference, or the CFLE Reception, to participate because all active CFLEs, even if they weren't registered for the NCFR Conference, were allowed to attend the reception. While it wasn't quite the same, the event continued to be engaging, interactive, and fun!

The CFLE Advisory Board did a great job of hosting an event that closely followed the agenda of the on-site reception. The inclusion of polls and breakout rooms ensured that everyone had a chance to interact. Because of the success of the online format of the 2020 reception, the 2021 reception largely followed the same format.

## President's Reception

The President's Reception is the first full-member reception of the conference. In person, the reception is held in a large ballroom where everyone gathers for hors d'oeuvres and networking. The first poster session opens during this time, so attendees can mingle and view posters. The NCFR Board members are also present to welcome attendees to the reception.

When the pandemic hit, NCFR staff wondered, How are we going to host this amazing networking event virtually? As with everything else, we looked to Zoom. We designed a reception with seven separate Zoom links—five Zoom links with two board members in each room, a Zoom link for Wiley Publishing, and one open Zoom room

for spontaneous networking. The Whova page featured a video introduction from NCFR President Leigh Leslie welcoming attendees to the reception, and attendees could move between rooms. There wasn't a program per se, but the board members had conversation starters to break the ice with visiting attendees. Conference survey responses indicated that the networking could be improved and that the open Zoom room wasn't useful.

In everything we do, we strive to enhance the experience of our attendees. For the 2021 NCFR Annual Conference, there was one Zoom link for the President's Reception. This year, we used breakout rooms in Zoom, which allowed attendees to easily move between breakout rooms. There were six breakout rooms—five rooms for the NCFR Board and one room for Wiley Publishing representatives. This valuable networking opportunity allowed attendees to get up close and personal with board members in a more intimate, less formal manner.

### University Reception

The University Reception is one of the most highly attended receptions during the conference. This reception is an opportunity for programs and universities to highlight themselves to prospective students and employees, and to reconnect with their alumni. There are typically anywhere between 25–32 universities represented during the reception. This high-energy reception offers networking opportunities and great food. The exhibits are opened this time, but no other sessions are scheduled concurrently during this 2-hour event. People are always excited to attend the University Reception, and it is always highly rated.

Determining how to move this high-energy, much-loved reception online was a challenge. The solution in 2020 was to provide a Zoom link to each of the 16 universities that participated in the reception. A list of all participating universities was provided in the conference platform Whova. Attendees could choose a university to visit from the list and move in and out of Zoom rooms as they desired during the 2-hour event. University and program representatives could use breakout

rooms as they were talking with visitors. The University Reception experienced the same type of struggles as the Newcomers Welcome in that most attendees went to the first university listed. Few attendees visited the universities further down the list.

The University Reception was changed in 2021 to provide more exposure to all the universities. There was one main Zoom link where all representatives and attendees congregated. The reception was emceed this year by Jennifer Doty, SNP Board Representative, who welcomed attendees, introduced each university, and provided instructions for attendees. Each university had 1 minute to share information about its program and to encourage people to visit its individual breakout room. This year, people were asked to spread out and to not all visit one breakout room at the same time. During the last 10 minutes of the reception, everyone was invited back to the main room, where prize winners were announced. This year's prizes included a three-night hotel stay during the 2022 NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, an NCFR conference registration, and an NCFR membership.

### Legacy Circle

The Legacy Circle is a reception for those who have been a member of NCFR for over 25 years. The reception typically provides champagne, sparkling apple juice, and fantastic desserts. It is one of the last receptions, held in the evening, so all can relax and mingle with one another. The amazing Cindy Winter, who has been with

NCFR for 57 years, plays the piano at the beginning of the event. The current NCFR President then introduces the new members of the Legacy Circle. Often, memory books are shared and the event occasionally includes some NCFR trivia. It is a fan favorite event for those who attend.

In 2020, we wanted to ensure that Legacy Circle members were able to continue networking and visiting with their NCFR family. The reception was held through Zoom and used breakout rooms. Leigh Leslie, the current NCFR President, started the program by introducing the new Legacy Circle members. A game of NCFR trivia was held—which started quite the discussion of our history! One of the best parts of the event was that some Legacy Circle members who haven't been able to attend NCFR in years were able to attend again. It was wonderful to see their faces.

This reception was truly a hit. Because it worked out so well, the 2021 Legacy Circle format remained the same. Only this time, the trivia questions and answers were crowdsourced by our members.

### Closing

The pandemic has been a challenge for us all. Moving a high-energy conference with 1,256 attendees online has required many conversations. The NCFR staff hopes that you have found the receptions to remain highly engaging and full of networking opportunities, and to see you in-person again for the 2022 NCFR Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ✨

## NCFR Report: A Member Forum

*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 *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.

## Strengthening Family Relationships Through Therapy and Education

### Member Q&A With Rachel Sullivan



Rachel Sullivan

**Family Science Impact** highlights how NCFR members are making a difference through their Family Science work and showcases their career journeys. See more about the many careers and professions of Family Science at [n CFR.org/family-science-careers](https://n CFR.org/family-science-careers)

#### Name:

Rachel Sullivan, LMFT, CFLE-P

#### Current Job Title:

Owner and Founder, Solid Ground Counseling Center (Madison, AL)

#### Tell us a bit about your current work and why it's important.

My primary role is a marriage and family therapist (MFT). I see clients 3 days a week, and I see a mix of individuals, couples, and families. At the end of the day, I'm really helping to strengthen relationships, and I'm working to help people be OK with *themselves*. A motto for me is "forward momentum"—always being in motion to incorporate what we've learned and experienced into where we want to be in the future.

For me, MFT work and training helps us see how everything we do is impacted by something else we're involved in. It's important to help people understand that whatever they're struggling with is bigger than them. It's helping people make those connections between the pieces of life that are intertwined. It helps normalize how we feel when life is impacting us.

#### What was your professional path to your current role? What shaped or influenced that path?

Long story short, I'm a mom in a blended family. When I met my now husband while we were in the military, he had two kids. I was 20, and I knew nothing about parenting or life, really; I was just trying to figure that

out. My associate's degree was in paralegal studies, but I switched fields and earned my bachelor's degree in child and family development. A big part of choosing that degree was trying to better understand our family, and I used what I learned to help us have a healthier foundation.

I realized at that point that I wanted to work with families, I just didn't know how. The last class of my bachelor's degree was a marriage and family therapy class, and that was where everything fell into place.

After that, I found my online MFT degree program. To complete my graduate internship, I established a mental health

program within a local nonprofit and provided free counseling there, which solidified my desire to bring affordable, comprehensive mental health care and education to the community.

As I researched area agencies during my internship, I realized that working under someone else wasn't where I was supposed to be. So, it was awesome to launch my own practice—Solid Ground Counseling Center—in 2018 and offer more tailored services to meet people where they are. In 2019, I partnered with a local veteran-owned organization that had rehabilitated an apartment complex where I did free in-home counseling with residents. Last year,

## Thank You, NCFR Donors

Donations made to NCFR from July 1 to September 30, 2021

Kari L. Adamsons\*

Norma J. Bond Burgess\*

Deborah P. Coehlo

Michelle Ann Finley

Judith L. Fischer\*

Jacki Fitzpatrick\*†

William Michael Fleming †

Cynthia A. Frosch\*

Larae Gilbert

Katrina M. Carter Harris

M. Janice Hogan-Schiltgen

Donna Hoskins

Roselene Kelley\*

Leslie Ann Koepke

Ralph LaRossa

Kimberly C Mack\*

Jay A. Mancini\*

Scott A. Myers

Audrey E. Nelson\*

Hilary A. Rose

Terri Nicole Sawyer

Eric Eben Sevard\*†

Hailey Stout

Dana A. Weiser\*

\*NCFR Student Access Grant  
†CFLE Scholarship Fund



I launched a counseling scholarship program through my practice; I partner with the nonprofit SAM Foundation, which contributes to the session fee for scholarship clients.

While I learned about the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) credential during my bachelor's program, I put that on hold during my master's program. I earned my CFLE in 2020 to pair therapy and education.

## How do you use Family Science/Family Life Education knowledge or skills in your current work?

One of the big things is helping people make connections. We can talk about linking things from early childhood in the therapy world, which I love because I think we can provide a lot of freedom when we help people understand where something originated.

Then we can layer Family Life Education onto that. I'm able to offer information like premarital counseling, helping couples talk about the hard stuff like family planning, differences in finances, and spirituality.

Then when they do hit those life junctures and need help in the therapeutic realm, I'm equipped to do that as well.

For me, the two exist so beautifully together. Therapy is a lot about healing what has already happened, and Family Life Education

is about providing information that helps you normalize what's to come.

## What is most rewarding or makes you proudest about the impact of your work?

I love when clients can start making those core types of changes that propel them to a healthier place. But truthfully, the thing I'm most proud of is the work that we've done in our own family. Our kids have sacrificed a ton for me to get where I'm at. Knowing that they back what I do has been amazing, because they're able to cheer me on. I'm proud that they're able to see how the work we've done as a family is worth it, and that every day when I have to leave, they know I'm leaving so somebody else can have the same benefit in their house that we've been able to create in ours.

## What do you wish you would have known along your education or career path?

Trust what you keep coming back to. At the end of the day, nobody goes into Family Science because they want to make \$2 million a year. Family work is long and can be grueling, and often people don't see the value of it. But that doesn't stop us from doing it. Everyone I talk to who is in Family Science somewhere is passionate about humanity.

So as people are coming into these professions, my advice is to trust their gut about what they're supposed to do. Everybody's work is going to look different, and it's all necessary and important. Be OK with not fitting into somebody else's shoes so that you can contribute the unique thing that you're supposed to contribute.

## What do you want the world to know about your work, or about Family Science/Family Life Education?

I want to help our communities see the importance of understanding and normalizing the transitions that families go through. If we could help people understand that and get information out there more readily about what to expect, I think we could decrease stress and turmoil.

We make choices based on the best information that we have in the moment. But I think there's a lot more information out there for families that just isn't as readily available as it could be. My hope is that we'll be able to normalize talking about those family things that people go through and have more classes in communities, and that it's not taboo because people understand the value of learning something that they don't know. I dream about what that world would look like. ✨



## NCFR Student Award

### Erin Cooper, M.A.

Erin Cooper is the 2021 recipient of the NCFR Student Award, which is given to an NCFR graduate student member who has demonstrated excellence as a student and shows great potential for contributing to Family Science. Ms. Cooper is a doctoral student at Auburn University in human development and Family Science. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of North Alabama and earned her master's in marriage and family therapy from Auburn University. Ms. Cooper's research interests include applied relationship science, the intersection of couple relationships and

individual well-being, and the role of risk and resilience among relationship education participants. She has experience working with diverse families, couples, and individuals as a marriage and family therapist and Certified Family Life Educator. She currently works with community-based relationship education programs where she has experience teaching youth and adults in the community to enhance relational and individual well-being. ✨



Erin Cooper

## Reuben Hill Award

### Research and Theory Section

### Christina J. Cross, Ph.D.

Christina J. Cross is the 2021 recipient of the Reuben Hill Award, which is given to the author(s) of an outstanding article or book that combines theory and methodology to analyze and interpret a significant family issue. Her article, "Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Association Between Family Structure and Children's Education," was published in the April 2020 issue of *Journal of Marriage and Family*. The award is given in memory of Reuben Hill, who had a distinguished career as a university professor and pioneered the scholarly study of family.



Christina J. Cross

Dr. Cross is a postdoctoral fellow and assistant professor of sociology at Harvard University (beginning 2022). Her research falls at the intersection of families, race/ethnicity, demography, and social inequality. She examines how family structure, change, and dynamics influence individuals' life chances, particularly among minoritized and/or low-income populations. Her award-winning scholarship has appeared in outlets such as *Social Problems*, *Demography*, and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Her work has been supported by organizations including the National Science Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the JPB Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council. Cross holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Sociology from the University of Michigan. She and her partner, Mel, live in the Greater Boston area, where they enjoy running, biking, hiking, and trying out new cooking recipes. ✨

## Jessie Bernard Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper

### Feminism and Family Studies Section

### Candice Maier, Ph.D.

Dr. Candice Maier is the 2021 recipient of the Jessie Bernard Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper. This award is given to a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to feminist scholarship. Her paper is titled "Examining Gender in Heterosexual Couples Relationships Utilizing the Biobehavioral Family Model: Implications for Couple



Candice Maier

Therapy." This award is presented in memory of Jessie Bernard, former NCFR Board Member and pioneer in the field of feminist family studies.

Dr. Maier is a licensed marriage and family therapist, clinical director, and assistant professor of counseling, rehabilitation, and human services at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She has a master's and doctorate degree in couple and family therapy and currently teaches in a COAMFTE master's program. Dr. Maier's research focuses on the influence of cis-gender roles on romantic relationships and links to mental/physical health outcomes, couple/family teletherapy, feminist family therapy, and best practices in teaching family science. ✨

## Ernest G. Osborne Award

*Education and Enrichment Section*

### Silvia K. Bartolic, Ph.D.

Silvia K. Bartolic is the 2021 recipient of the Ernest G. Osborne Award, which is given to an NCFR member who has excelled in teaching Family Science and providing service to families through teaching. Ernest G. Osborne, the namesake of this award, was a three-time NCFR president and a professor of family at Columbia University. He excelled at innovative teaching methods.

Dr. Bartolic is an associate professor of teaching in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. She earned her doctorate in human development and Family Science at the University of Texas at Austin and her master's degree in family studies at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Bartolic's educational leadership is focused on developing

and promoting the scholarship of teaching and learning and advancing pedagogy and curriculum to assist students in cultivating transferable skills for life beyond the degree. Her research interests center on ways relationships result in health and well-being throughout the life course by examining internal beliefs and motivations, relationship dynamics, as well as larger social contextual factors that are associated with stability and health over time. ✨



Silvia K. Bartolic

## Kathleen Briggs Outstanding Mentor Award

*Family Therapy Section*

### Stephen T. Fife, Ph.D.

Stephen Fife is the 2021 recipient of the Kathleen Briggs Outstanding Mentor Award, which recognizes an outstanding mentor of students and new professionals in the area of marriage

and family therapy. This award is given in honor of Kathleen Briggs, a longtime Family Therapy Section member and leader. She was committed to mentoring marriage and family therapy graduate students and new professionals.

Dr. Fife is an associate professor and program director of the couple, marriage, and family therapy program at Texas Tech University. He has a master's degree in psychology and a doctorate in marriage and family therapy and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. His research interests center on couples therapy, the treatment and healing of infidelity, and common factors of change. He co-authored two books on couple therapy and is the co-developer of an innovative meta-model of psychotherapy called the therapeutic pyramid. He has published and presented his research nationally and internationally and is very active mentoring graduate students – especially in qualitative research. He is happily married and is the father of two sons. He loves the outdoors, and when not busy with family or work, you will probably find him dreaming about fly fishing. ✨



Stephen Fife

## Jessie Bernard Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective

*Feminism and Family Studies Section*

### Steph Cooke, M.A.

Steph Cooke is the 2021 recipient of the Jessie Bernard Outstanding Research Proposal from a Feminist Perspective Award, which is given to a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to feminist scholarship. Her project is titled "A Narrative Inquiry about Motherwork of Women-Partnered Black Queer Women." This award is presented in memory of Jessie Bernard, former NCFR Board Member and pioneer in the field of feminist family studies.

Ms. Cooke is a doctoral candidate at Virginia Tech in human development and Family Science, and currently completing their advanced practical experience as a behavioral therapist at Redfish Counseling

in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. They earned their master's degree in marriage and family therapy at Appalachian State University and bachelor's in psychology with a minor in sociology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Ms. Cooke's research interests focus on the intersections between race, gender, and sexuality in intrapersonal and relational processes, specifically how Black queer mothers experience their identity as a mother. ✨



Steph Cooke

## Cindy Winter Scholarship Award

### Janeal M. White, M.S., CFLE

Janeal M. White is the 2021 recipient of the Cindy Winter Scholarship, which is given to a student or new professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service in the discipline of Family Science. This award recognizes Cindy Winter, NCFR's conference director from 1964 to 2007.



Janeal M. White

Ms. White is a doctoral candidate at the Louisiana State University School of Social Work and recently joined the McNeese State University faculty as the internship coordinator and assistant professor in the Family Science program. She is a CFLE and has an extensive history of leadership and service within NCFR at the university, state, regional, and national levels including chairing two academic conferences, serving as regional president of the Southeastern Council on Family Relations, NCFR Mentoring Academy Steering Committee, Digital Scholarship Board of the *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, incoming Student and New Professional (SNP) Representative for the Family Policy Section, and former SNP Rep for the Affiliate Councils Board. \*

## Marie F. Peters Award

### Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section

### Ani Yazedjian, Ph.D.

Ani Yazedjian is the 2021 recipient of the Marie F. Peters Award, which is given to an NCFR member who made significant contributions to the area of ethnic minority families. Marie F. Peters, the namesake of this award, was a distinguished scholar, researcher, practitioner, and mentor, as well as an illustrious member of NCFR, a board member, and an Ethnic Minorities Section leader.



Ani Yazedjian

Dr. Yazedjian, currently serves as associate provost at Illinois State University. Prior to this role, she served as chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. In 2013, she was awarded the designation of university professor, the highest recognition that can be achieved by an academic administrator at Illinois State. Her current research interests focus

on evidence-based practice and adolescent development. She has been awarded over \$7 million in funding to support her scholarship. Dr. Yazedjian most recently served as the principal investigator and project director on a 5-year, \$5.19 million Healthy Marriage grant to implement the Champaign Area Relationship Education for Youth (CARE4U) program. The program provided over 200 at-risk youth per year (ages 15-24) with relationship education, as well as job readiness and financial management skills in order to enhance their well-being and support their successful transition to adulthood. For those students who completed 100% of curriculum, the program also offered the opportunity for summer employment or enrollment in one community college course (both subsidized by the grant). Dr. Yazedjian earned a doctorate and master's degree in human and community development from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Florida. \*

## Advertise in NCFR Report

Looking to promote your university's programs to potential students or faculty candidates? Want to advertise an event or workshop you're organizing?

Get the message to your NCFR colleagues by advertising in NCFR Report, NCFR's quarterly member magazine.

Each issue of Report — which includes organizational news and the popular "Family Focus" section made up of translational, research-based articles — goes out to the entire NCFR membership.

Space is available for advertising in every issue of Report. Rates start at \$350 for a quarter-page ad (with volume discounts available).

Interested? Find more details about rates, deadlines, and specs at [ncfr.org/advertise-ncfr-report](https://ncfr.org/advertise-ncfr-report)



## Wiley Prize in Family Science

**Karen Bogenschneider, Ph.D.**,

University of Wisconsin–Madison

“Realizing the Promise of Research in

Policy-making: Theoretical Guidance

Grounded in Policymaker Perspectives”

## Cognella Innovation in Teaching Family Science Award

*First place:*

**Alan C. Taylor, Ph.D., CFLE,**

East Carolina University

*Second place (tie):*

**Dee Hill-Zuganelli, Ph.D.**, Berea College

**Kerry Weil Tripp, J.D.**, University of Maryland

## 2021 Affiliate Councils Awards

### Affiliate Councils Award for Meritorious Service

**Shera C. Jackson, Ph.D.**, Texas Tech University

### Affiliate Councils Student and New Professional President-For-A-Day Award

**Christine E. McCall, M.S.**, Purdue University

## 2021 Section Award Winners

### Advancing Family Science Section

*Emerging Mentor/Teacher Award*

**Christina M. Marini, Ph.D.**, Adelphi University

**Sarah A. Kuborn, Ph.D., CFLE,** Southeast

Missouri State University

*Outstanding Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Paper Award*

**Katherine R. Allen,** Virginia Tech

### Families & Health Section

*Excellence in Professional/Clinical Practice Award*

**Mariana K. Falconier, Ph.D.**,

University of Maryland

*Outstanding Professional*

*Paper/Publications Award*

**Ashley E. Ermer, Ph.D., CFLE,**

Montclair State University

“Older Women’s Friendships: Illuminating

the Role of Marital Histories in How Older

Women Navigate Friendships and Caregiving

for Friends”

*Outstanding Student and New Professional Paper Award*

**Athena Chung Yin Chan, M.S.**,

University of Minnesota

“The state of theory in elder family financial

exploitation: A systematic review”

*Outstanding Ph.D./NP Poster Award*

**Jacqlyn L. Yourell, M.S.**, University of Florida

“Weight-Talk Between Parents and

Adolescents: A Systematic Review of

Relationships With Health-Related and

Psychosocial Outcomes”

*Outstanding Undergrad/Masters Student Poster Award*

**Aosai Liu, M.S.**, Florida State University

“The Role of Indulgence Parenting in Linking

Marital Relationship and Parenting Stress”

### Family and Community Education Section (formerly Education and Enrichment Section)

*Student Proposal Award*

**Emily Charvat, M.S.**, University of Missouri

“Similar Benefits of CRE Workshops Following

the Pivot to Online Implementation During

the COVID-19 Pandemic”

**Erin Cooper, M.A.**, Auburn University

“First, Do No Harm: Exploring ACEs’ Impact on

Couple Relationship Education Outcomes and

Resilience-Related Mechanisms of Change”

**Kayley Davis McMahan, Ph.D.**

“How Would You React? Developing and

Analyzing the Sexually Transmitted Infection

(STI) Disclosure Reactions (SDR) Measure”

### Family Therapy Section

*Best Poster Award – Student*

**Courtney Anne Furlong, M.Ed.**,

Auburn University

“Sexual Assault and Links to Sense of Control

and Economic and Marital Stability”

*Best Poster Award – New Professional*

**Nick Frye-Cox, Ph.D.**, Auburn University

“A Review of Internet-Delivered and Text

Message Interventions for the Treatment of

Mental Health”

### Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Families Section

*Student Best Paper Award*

**Ashley A. Walsdorf, Ph.D.**,

University of Texas at Austin

“Developing an Observational Task to

Measure Ethnic-Racial Socialization in

African American and Latinx Children and

Adolescents: Theory, Practice, and Change”

*New Professional Best Paper Award*

**Melinda Murdock, M.S.**

“How Do Couples Flourish While

Experiencing Daily Discrimination?

Examining Race-Related Stress, Resiliency,

and Relationship Quality in Black Couples”

### Religion, Spirituality, and Family Section

*Outstanding Paper Award*

**Jacki A. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., CFLE,**

Texas Tech University

“The Representation of God/Higher Power in

Storybooks About U.S. Adoptive Families”

*Student and New Professional Outstanding*

*Paper Award*

**William Stanford, M.A.**, University of Georgia

“How Faith Helps and Hinders in Interfaith

Marriages”

### Research & Theory Section

*Best Abstract by a Student and New*

*Professional Award*

**Siera Jo Reimnitz, M.S., CFLE,**

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

“Coparenting Alliance, Couple Conflict, Social

Support, and Relationship Quality: A Dyadic

Model of Low-Income Couples”

## 2021 Focus Group Awards

*Family Financial Well-Being Focus Group –*

*Best Family Economics Paper of the Year*

**Xiaomin Li, Melissa A. Curran, Ashley B.**

**LeBaron-Black, Joyce Serido, and**

**Soyeon Shim**

“Romantic attachment orientations, financial

behaviors, and life outcomes among young

adults: A mediating analysis of a college

cohort”

*Family Financial Well-Being Focus Group –*

*Best Student Paper Award*

**Xiaoyan Zhang, Ambika Krishnakumar,**

and **Lutchmie Narine**

“Family economic hardship and child

outcomes: Test of family stress model in the

Chinese context”

# 2021 NCFR AWARD RECIPIENTS

*Issues in Aging Focus Group Award – Students and New Professionals*

**Woosang Hwang, Ph.D.**, Syracuse University  
“Do Filial Elder-Care Norms Predict Intergenerational Solidarity With Older Parents? A Developmental Approach”

**Kyle L. Bower, Ph.D.**, Georgia State University  
“Life Journeys Toward Spiritual Fulfillment by LGBTQ Older Adults: Implications For Couple and Family Therapists”

*Issues in Aging Focus Group Award – Professional*

**Twyla J. Hill, Ph.D.**, and **Cheyra Clawson, M.F.A.**, Wichita State University  
“Choreographing Matrilineal Memories by Combining Oral History Interviews and Dance”

**G. Kevin Randall, Ph.D., CFLE**, Sam Houston State University  
“The Distal Influence of Closeness to Parents and Life Satisfaction of Centenarians”

*Men in Families Focus Group – Best Research Article Award*

**Raymond E. Petren, Ph.D.**, Penn State Scranton  
“A Cross-Lagged panel model of coparental interaction and father involvement shortly after divorce”

*Men in Families Focus Group – Best New Professional Research Article Award*

**Laura Cutler, Ph.D.**, Ohio State University  
“Fathers’ shared book reading experiences: Common behaviors, frequency, predictive factors, and developmental outcomes”

*Men in Families Focus Group – Diversity and Inclusion Research Article Award*

**Joyce Y. Lee, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, Ohio State University  
“Longitudinal relations between coparenting and father engagement in low-income residential and nonresidential father families”

*Military Families and Children Focus Group – Outstanding SNP Proposal Award*

**Hilary D. Pippert, Ph.D.**  
“U.S. Army Wives’ Perceptions of and Experiences with Sacrifice”

*Military Families and Children Focus Group – Outstanding Professional Proposal Award*

**Shelley M. MacDermid Wadsworth, Ph.D., CFLE**, Purdue University  
“Pathways to Successful Reintegration following Military Deployment”

*Sibling Relationships Focus Group – Best Student Paper Award*

**Renée Elizabeth Wilkins-Clark, M.S., CFLE**, Kansas State University  
“Sibling Moderation of the Relationship Between Parental Adverse Childhood Experiences, Therapeutic Intervention, and Child Behavior”

*Sibling Relationships Focus Group – Best Student Poster Award*

**Olivia Tomfohrde, M.S., LMFT**, University of Minnesota  
“Former Foster Youths’ Perceptions of Sibling Relationships in Foster Care: Barriers and Suggestions For Policy and Programming” ✨

## Welcome to the Newest Members of NCFR

Please join us in welcoming these members who joined between July 1 and September 30, 2021.

Keliah Nikita Adams	Muskan Datta	Barb Henschel
Martha Jailene Aguirre	Andres De Los Reyes	Chai Her
Naheed Ahmed	Sakina Dixon	Erica Hernandez
Arif Anindita	Melissa J. Dobbs	Tanner Hickman
Kara Ann-Mariah Applegate	Marly Doty	Stephanie Diane Holcombe
Carrie Anne Badillo	Ashlyn Nicole Douthitt	Richardson Honore
Pearl Latham Bailey	Toby McKay Driggs	Staci Hoskins
Stacey Baker	Niara Eans	Elise Huerta
Maggie L. Beaupre DeYoung	Jamie Eddins	La Shawn Y. Hurst
Susana Beltran-Grimm	Katie Engelking	Kevin Jon Ing
Aspen Bergmann	Leigh Ann Flscher	Vernaliz Jimenez
Corey Best	Martine Foreman	Jo Johnson
Shelby Blogumas	Jada Fuselier	Rhea Johnson
Rebekah Bondoc	Shelby Gallegos	Anna Elizabeth Jones
Ashley Bourgeois	Jennifer Marie Gentile	Benjamin Jones
Kelsey Rene Bradford	Kimberly Ghisalberti	Renee Cassandra Jordan
Erin Colleen Buffaloe	Jordan Gonder	Eunjoo Jung
Calisse Burand	Sharon Goodwin	Nari Kang
Joshua Michael Butler	Amber Green	Thoinu Karam
Shosh Carmel	Brionna Haas	Catherine Lorraine Keller
Katrina M. Carter-Harris	Alaina Kay Hahn	Shiva Kiar
Genese Calloway Clark	Brandy Halterman	Jee Hoon Lee
Gwendolyn Collver	Edna Marie Hammond-Williams	Richard Lee
Emma Compton	Lauren Harris	Crystal Lewis
Eva Lee Cutway	Mia Harvey	Lisa Kathryn Lupinacci
Grace Kirkland Dabbs	Joan Healy	Aixa Marchand
	Monica A. Henry	

*New Members  
continued on page 17*

2021 Recipients continued from page 1

The recipients' grant proposal is "Shared Language Erosion: Investigating Communication as a Mechanism in the Circumplex Model of Family Systems in Immigrant Families." Research shows that immigrant children's English proficiency advances rapidly while that of their parents shows only modest gains. Less recognized is that immigrant children also either fail to develop or lose much of their heritage language. The researchers hypothesize that the loss of a shared common language has an impact on family communication, a core component of Olson's Circumplex Model, and may lead to negative youth outcomes. This project will sample first- and second-generation mother-child dyads using several methods and theories. Specifically, Dr. Olson's FACES IV Family Assessment will be used to measure family cohesion, flexibility, communication, and satisfaction.

In their decision, the selection committee praised the recipients for their innovative proposal, noting that it "nicely wove [together] theory, research, and practice." The committee went on to note that its members believe the project will ultimately be successful "in the very important work of strengthening families."

Dr. Cox and his colleagues will present findings of the intervention at the 2022 NCFR Annual Conference, scheduled to take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The NCFR Olson Grant will accept proposals again in 2022, with an application deadline of March 31, 2022. Find complete details about the grant, eligibility criteria, and application process and requirements at [ncfr.org/ncfr-olson-grant](http://ncfr.org/ncfr-olson-grant).

About the Recipients

**Ronald B. Cox Jr., Ph.D.**, is the George Kaiser Family Foundation Chair in child and family resilience at Oklahoma State University, where he also is a professor in human development and a Family Science and Extension specialist. His research focuses on examining



Ronald B. Cox Jr.

social determinants of risk and resilience in Latino adolescents and translating those into family-based prevention interventions. Dr. Cox's research has been funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health (National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute of General Medical Sciences), the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (Children, Youth, and Families at Risk program), and the U.S. Department of Justice (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention). He is also director of the recently established Center for Immigrant Health and Education at Oklahoma State University.

**Isaac J. Washburn, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor and research methodologist in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University. In addition to regularly teaching classes in advanced statistical modeling and methods, Dr. Washburn has been working on federally funded



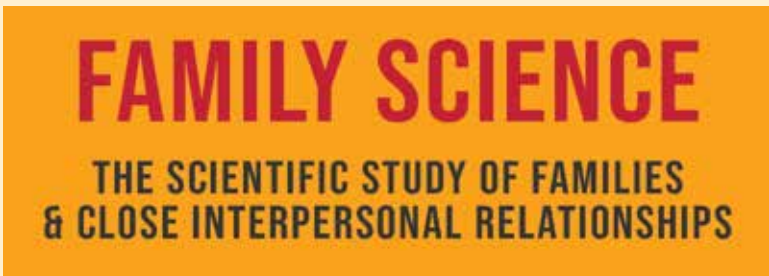
Isaac J. Washburn

grants for over 15 years and serves as part of a biostatistics group for the federally funded Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Adversity. His personal research looks at family and social predictors of adolescents' risky behaviors, evaluating possible prevention strategies, and he is working with NCFR to present a series of webinars on the foundations of quantitative methods.

**Darcey K. deSouza, Ph.D.**, is a postdoctoral research fellow at Oklahoma State University. Dr. deSouza studies a range of topics that engage with questions concerning children's communication practices in everyday family life. In her personal research, she analyzes video recordings of in-person and mediated family interactions. Recent publications examine communication practices such as child-initiated and parent-solicited updating, the provision of social support, and the expression of gratitude. ✨



Darcey K. deSouza



Online From NCFR: Glossary of Family Science Identity

- What is a Family Scientist?
Which professions are considered Family Science?
What makes Family Science an academic discipline?

Get up to speed on key terms related to Family Science in NCFR's online glossary, Key Terms of Family Science Identity.

Visit [ncfr.org/key-terms-family-science](http://ncfr.org/key-terms-family-science)

*Get Involved* continued from page 2

- Knowledge and/or experience in leadership roles through Sections, Affiliate Councils, Focus Groups, conference planning, publishing, public policy, or other committee work.

## DEFINITION OF DIVERSITY

When identifying members to run for office, consideration should be given to a slate that is diverse in its representation of members, for example:

- Ability and disability
- Aboriginal, mixed, immigrant
- Age
- Bilingualism and multiculturalism/English language learners
- Body size and condition
- Customs and traditions
- Educational, disciplinary, or career status
- Ethnicity, race, national origin, or cultural identity
- Gender, gender identity, and gender expression
- Geographical background and location
- Marital status, relational status (including singlehood), and family structure or identity
- Objective and subjective worldviews and standpoints
- Political ideologies and affiliations
- Religion/no religion, spirituality and affiliations, and faith
- Sexual orientation, identities, and expressions
- Socioeconomic status, residential status, social class, employment, and national service

[Note: The aspects of diversity are listed alphabetically, but not in any order of priority.]

Keeping this in mind, we invite self-nominations and nominations of others for the following positions for the slate to be elected in February of 2023. The terms for these positions will begin November 2023 at the end of the annual conference.

### **Board of Directors President-elect – 2023-2025, President – 2025-2027 (One Position Open)**

The President-elect shall assist the President and in the event of the President's absence,

incapacitation, resignation or death, the President's duties (general management of the business of the NCFR Board) will transfer to the President-elect. President-elect will serve on the Board Audit Committee and be in charge of the Newcomers Welcome at the Annual Conference.

### **Board Member-at-Large – 2023-2026 (Two 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 of maintaining contact with the membership and reflecting the needs of all NCFR members.

### **Affiliate Councils President-elect – 2023-2025 (One Position Open)**

The Affiliate Councils President-elect shall serve on the National Council on Family Relations Board of Directors for a two-year term and shall represent concerns of the members of the Affiliate Councils. This position shall assume the presidency of the Affiliate Councils for a two-year term following their term as President-elect.

### **Students and New Professionals Board Representative-elect – 2023-2024, SNP Board Representative 2024-2026 (One Position Open)**

The Students and New Professionals Board Representative-elect serves a one-year term as a non-voting member of the Board. After serving their one-year term this position will move to the position of Students and New Professionals Board Representative and serves a two-year term as a voting member of the Board of Directors. During their one-year term, the SNP Board Representative-elect will learn about the organization and their roles as the future SNP Board Representative by shadowing and assisting the current SNP Board Representative and SNP Program Representative.

### **Elections Council Members – 2023-2026 (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, Students and New Professionals Board Representative, Students and New Professionals Program Representative, Fellows Committee, Elections Council, the Inclusion and Diversity Committee positions, and to ensure that the policies regarding recruitment as provided by the NCFR Bylaws, and the Elections Council Policies and Procedures are followed.

### **Fellows Committee – 2023-2026 (Two Positions Open)**

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

### **Inclusion & Diversity Committee Member-at-Large – 2023-2026 (Three Positions Open)**

IDC Members-at-Large will serve to assist the 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 the IDC via webpage postings, NCFR Reports, and other effective venues of communication.

### **Inclusion and Diversity Committee Students and New Professional Representative – 2023-2025 (One Position Open)**

The Students and New Professionals Representative shall act as a liaison between the IDC and the Students and New Professionals Leadership Council.

### **Annual Conference Program Chair-elect – 2023-2024 – Program Chair for 2025 Conference**

The NCFR Conference Program Chair-elect is appointed by the NCFR Board of Directors. The Elections Council is interested in your suggestions for potential program chair appointees. Please feel free to suggest names along with your other nominations.

Again, become involved in leadership positions of our organization. Consider what your involvement will be. Send nominations to Rosemary Johnson at [rosemaryjohnson@ncfr.org](mailto:rosemaryjohnson@ncfr.org). For additional information, please review our website, [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org). Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2022. ✨



*New Members continued from page 14*

Katherine Marchant  
Christina Marsack-Topolewski  
Roxanne T. McDonald  
Doneila McIntosh  
Yxsel Melendrez Ramirez  
Madison Midyett  
Jalane Rania Miller  
Kymberly Miller  
Brandy Mechelle Mills  
Bernadette Juleeta Ndayizeye  
Colton James Nisley  
Aubria M. Ortega  
Linda Owens

Elizabeth A. Oxley  
Jessica Pater  
Thmyra Pattum  
Gizzale M Phillips  
Daryl Potts  
Sheryl Pzynski Miller  
Xin Quan  
Ashley Quigley  
Dawson Elizabeth Quinn  
Amirah Rahieem  
Maria A Ramos Olazagasti  
Elise Benson Randall  
Samantha L. Redig  
Alethea Rollins

Rachel Salas  
Yessica Sargent  
Matthew Todd Saxey  
Paula Schulzke  
J.C. Sheen  
Lucy K. Shirisia  
Nicole June Smalley  
Angela Joy Struhs  
Bolim Suh  
Felicia L. Thomas  
Brittany Christine Thomas  
Kaitlyn Ann Throckmorton  
Kelsie Tibbetts  
Mark Herrick Trahan

Kerry Weil Tripp  
Madison Leigh Vanden Houten  
Brooke Nichole Vandergriff  
Jessica White  
Bethani Whiting  
Emma Willis-Grossmann  
Panpan Yang  
Melissa Yang  
Anna Yelick  
Sehyun Yun  
Saira Zaman  
Lisa Ziegler  
Katherine Zinsser

## Congratulations to Our New Certified Family Life Educators

The following is a list of Certified Family Life Educators (CFLEs) designated between July 1 and September 30, 2021. Provisional unless otherwise noted.

### Alabama

Trina Leary

### Arkansas

Brittney Schrick FULL

### Arizona

Lorenzo Ruiz Cantoja

### California

Jennifer De Santiago  
Taylor Lynn Distelrath  
Elaine Marbely Garza  
Luis A. Martinez

### Delaware

Jacqueline Cole  
Jamie D. Curry  
Keisha Dionne Daniels  
Desiree S. Klein

### Florida

Martie L. Gillen  
Julia Miller  
Ann Marie O'Keeffe Rodgers

### Georgia

Hannah Caruso  
Mallory Fletcher  
Jonita Jonell Jenkins

### Illinois

Lauren C. Rice

### Kansas

Allison Grace Rood

### Kentucky

Dana R. Poynter FULL

### Louisiana

Madison Grace Russell

### Maryland

Kayla Alexis Clark  
Kristina Marie Hill  
Telisha Johnson

### Michigan

Anna J. Bakker  
Crystal D. Davidson  
Sarah Briggs Edwards  
Maria Isabel Enamorado  
Jordan Gonder  
Yongjin Michelle Kapp

### Minnesota

Gretchen Ann Ray-Jensen  
FULL  
Taylor Ann Smida

### Mississippi

Emily Elizabeth Grubbs  
Christy McMurrian  
Kira Rivers  
Melanie Rebekah Uggen FULL

### North Carolina

Tiarrah Costin

### North Dakota

Melisa Hajdar

### New Jersey

Colleen Maeve Larkin

### Nevada

Savannah Nicole Viegas

### New York

Autumn Sky Hargett  
Emily Nicole Noren

### Ohio

Tiffany La'shae Brown  
Nicholas M. Burk  
Brooke E. Gable  
Brennah Marie Kershner  
Rachel Julia Rymer  
Kaitlyn Ann Throckmorton

### Oklahoma

Brielle Buxton  
Heidie Lee

### Ontario

Denise L. Whitehead FULL

### Quebec

Francesca Rodriguez-Abante

### South Carolina

Kensley Harris Cobb  
Nadia Segar

### Tennessee

Sarah Harrison-Brown  
Katy Hitchcock  
Grace Miller  
Rebecca G. Renegar FULL

### Texas

Josabeth Castro  
James Taylor Cockrell  
Brittany Ann Fitzgerald  
Kaitlyn Paige Moll FULL  
Ivrisha Neal  
Raymie Angie Ortiz

### Utah

Angela Black  
Martha Elizabeth Correa  
Jessica Jahayra Garcia  
Michael Q. King  
Rachell Louise Saunders

### Washington

Mika L. McAfee

### *Allen Named* continued from page 1

qualitative research methods, feminist family studies, and Family Science theories. She has written eight books and more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and reviews. Most notably, her textbook, *Family Theories: Foundations and Applications*, is a comprehensive analysis of using theories to understand the diversity and complexity of families today.

She has unparalleled experience as an editor in the Family Science discipline, having reviewed for more than 50 journals, been on the editorial boards of all three NCFR journals, and served as deputy editor of NCFR's *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Dr. Allen has been active for over 40 years at NCFR, serving three terms on the NCFR Board of Directors. She has also chaired the Elections Council, Fellows Committee, Feminism and Family Studies Section, and Qualitative Family Research Network Focus Group, and she has served as Annual Conference Program Chair. She is an inaugural NCFR Fellow and the inaugural recipient of NCFR's Alexis J. Walker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Feminist Family Studies. She is also a recipient of the prestigious Ernest W. Burgess Award, which recognizes an NCFR member's outstanding scholarly achievement in the study of families.

In their letters of recommendation, Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D., praised Dr. Allen as visionary: "Her ideas for JFTR are exciting and well-conceived. She does not just 'dream up' visions but takes seriously their implementation." Dr. Goldberg concluded, "Under [Dr. Allen's] innovative and powerful leadership, JFTR will continue to establish itself as a leading Family Science journal." April Few-Demo, Ph.D., professor and head of human development and Family Science at Virginia Tech, noted that Dr. Allen "genuinely cares about diversity, inclusion, and equity and she has a career of scholarship that demonstrates these values." ✨

### *President's Report* continued from page 3

returning to travel and, for higher education, study abroad all bring challenges in preparing our students to be world ready.

Faculty exchanges and faculty-led programs changed right before our eyes. Events that had a significant impact on our lives and that of our students represents additional facets of education that will need to be addressed straight away—that is, when countries re-open their borders to welcome curious students and welcome back old friends from several years ago. It appears as if we "lost" eighteen months to an unknown phenomenon, except that we all know what it was, but did not know what to do with it and how to manage ourselves at the same time.

The enrichment of careers is sure to rise again, and to a different level. Countries will welcome students from everywhere; some countries will continue business as usual with policies that provoke discussion and consideration in other ways.

Your NCFR Board of Directors will continue the quest for outstanding research, teaching, service, social justice, inclusivity, and equity. The disparities that we see in our lives and read about in our research allows further examination by CFLEs and other practitioners to provide better services and serving families with more knowledge and various approaches. Welcome to 2022! ✨

### *Directions* continued from page 5

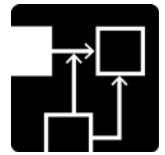
for Family Life Educators," will be introduced in the winter 2022 issue of *Network*, the newsletter for CFLEs. This column will provide an opportunity for CFLEs to share some of the things that they have learned over their years of providing various forms of Family Life Education.

I'm also hoping to provide another opportunity for Family Life Educators and CFLEs to share their wisdom at next year's Family Life Education Summit.

### **NCFR Virtual Family Life Education Summit Will Return in 2022**

As I shared in the fall issue of *NCFR Report*, NCFR's first virtual Family Life Education Summit, held in June 2021, was a big success, with more than 170 people

in attendance. NCFR is planning to host another virtual summit next spring on Friday, June 24, 2022. We'll likely follow the same format, with one plenary presentation and three blocks of three to four concurrent sessions. I'm planning to work with members of the CFLE Advisory Board once again, and I will also enlist the help of a special FLE Summit Task Force, largely made up of practitioner Family Life Educators who work outside of academia. Several attendees of the 2021 Summit expressed interest in serving on this task force, so I will be reaching out to them soon. In the meantime, I welcome involvement from anyone who wants to help plan this important event and your input on how we can make the 2022 Virtual FLE Summit an even bigger success than the inaugural event. ✨



## Research and Theory Section Update

Kayley Davis McMahan, Ph.D., Communications Specialist, [kdmcmahan@utk.edu](mailto:kdmcmahan@utk.edu)

### Dr. Christina Cross receives the Reuben Hill Award

It is with great pleasure that we announce Dr. Christina J. Cross as the winner of the 2021 Reuben Hill Award for Best Research Article, sponsored by NCFR's Research and Theory Section.



**Christina J. Cross**

The award is given in memory of Dr. Reuben Hill and is presented to the author(s) of the

best research article for the year prior to the award. It is given in recognition of an outstanding article, book, or monograph that combines theory and methodology in the analysis and interpretation of a significant family issue.

Dr. Cross's award-winning paper, "Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Association Between Family Structure and Children's Education," addresses an important topic in the literature on family structure and children's life chances. She investigates why living apart from a biological parent is less negatively consequential for racial/ethnic

minority children's academic success than it is for their White peers. She finds that the negative effect of parental absence from the home is less impactful for racial/ethnic groups already facing many socioeconomic disadvantages. In this, Dr. Cross challenges contemporary research and policy discourse about the centrality of the two-biological-parent family in reducing racial/ethnic disparities in child well-being. Dr. Cross is an incoming assistant professor of sociology at Harvard University. She and her partner, Mel, live in Greater Boston, where they enjoy running, biking, hiking, and trying out new cooking recipes. ✨

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF FAMILY SCIENCE

Family Science — the scientific study of families and close interpersonal relationships — has a history spanning more than 100 years.

**1938** The first National Conference on Family Relations was held, founding the NCFR organization.

**1946** NCFR cofounder Ernest Groves, wrote of the need for a "science of marriage and the family."

**1950s-80s** Scholars conducted systematic family research, developing new research methods and family theories. They created a new perspective, different from other disciplines. Professional practice areas emerged that dealt specifically with family.

**1983** A journal article by NCFR leaders asserted the birth of a family discipline.

**1984** An NCFR task force affirmed the existence of a "distinct and identifiable family discipline."

**1985** Several dozen NCFR members unanimously voted on "Family Science" as the discipline's name.

**Late 1900s- Early 2000s** Literature explored the identity and terminology of Family Science, still finding a need to strengthen the discipline's identity and visibility.

**2014-15** A new NCFR task force identified needs and generated ideas to promote disciplinary identity, visibility, professional development, and leadership.

**2020** NCFR reignited an Advancing Family Science initiative to further the vision of Family Science.

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) professional association represents the Family Science discipline, and scholars and professionals in Family Science. Learn more about Family Science at [nconf.org/family-science](http://nconf.org/family-science)

Sources listed in NCFR's Bibliography of Family Science as a Discipline: [nconf.org/bibliography-family-science-discipline](http://nconf.org/bibliography-family-science-discipline)

## Congratulations to NCFR's Honors Graduates for Fall 2021

**Aosai Liu**, Florida State University

**Chia-Feng Chen**, Iowa State University

**Ebony K. Williams**, Iowa State University

**Megan R. Guthrie**,  
John Brown University

**Jordan D. Schuler**,  
Oklahoma State University

**Tisha L. White**, Southern Utah University

**Madeleine Wardlow**,  
Texas Tech University

**Emma Willis-Gossmann**,  
Texas Tech University

**Biswadeep Dhar**, University of Florida

**Jason S. Baker**, University of Nebraska at Kearney

**LaQuasha DeAnn Cook**, University of North Texas

**Katherine E. Marchant**, University of North Texas

**Catherine Keller**, University of Wisconsin-Stout ✨



661 LaSalle Street  
Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
www.ncfr.org

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Rochester, MN  
Permit No. 289

in this issue:

Bridging the Research-  
Practice Divide

# NCFR 2022 Call for Proposals

[ncfr.org/ncfr-2022](https://ncfr.org/ncfr-2022)

*Proposal Submission Deadline:*

**11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time**

**March 1, 2022**

**National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)  
2022 Annual Conference**

**Wed.–Sat., Nov. 16–19, 2022**

*Preconference workshops: Tues., Nov. 15*

**Minneapolis, MN**



*Program Chair:*  
**Debra L. Berke, Ph.D., CFLE**  
Wilmington University



***Light and Shadow***  
***Shifting Perspectives and Families***