

# Interactions

newsletter of the  
Department of  
Family Social Science

University of Minnesota  
Spring 1990

## Family Social Science Welcomes New Department Head

**Harold D. Grotevant** joined the Department of Family Social Science on January 1, 1990 as Professor and its fifth Department Head. Hal has spent the past 13 years at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was Professor and Head of the Division of Child Development and Family Relationships.

Hal already had strong connections to "the U", having earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in the Institute of Child Development in the mid-1970's. Both his teaching and research reflect his perspective that in order to understand human development, one must understand the family contexts in which people live out their lives. His research explores the linkages between family relationships and human development. He has completed a number of studies focusing on the family as context for adolescent development.

His current research (being conducted with Dr. Ruth McRoy, Professor of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin) concerns relationships in adoptive families. They are conducting the first study to examine systematically the consequences of different types of adoptive family systems for the birthmothers, adopted children, and adoptive parents. Three types of adoptive family systems are being compared: those with confidential adoptions, in which little information is shared between the birthparents and adoptive parents and no contact is permitted; those with semi-open adoptions, in which birthparent(s) and adoptive parents communicate with each other through the adoption agency without sharing identifying information; and those with fully-

disclosed open adoptions, in which the birthparent(s) and adoptive family have ongoing personal contact. Although adoption practices are moving rapidly toward more openness, this research study will be the first to examine how these pioneering arrangements actually work.

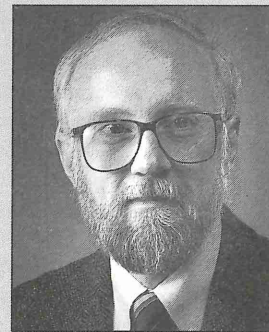
While at the U, Hal developed high regard for the university's programs and a strong affection for Minnesota and the Twin Cities. "When I was offered the opportunity to return to Minnesota to provide leadership for the excellent Family Social Science department, the decision was an obvious one. This is a very exciting time in the family field. There is a growing awareness that in order to understand the complex social problems facing our society, we must understand the family's role both in creating and in solving them. This department is playing a key role at the state, national, and international levels, and I'm very pleased to become a part of it," Grotevant stated.

Originally from upstate New York, Grotevant moved to Texas with his family at the age of ten. Returning to Texas after spending two years in the Navy in the San Francisco Bay area and then earning his Ph.D. at Minnesota, Grotevant established himself as a family scholar, with over sixty publications and four books to his credit. His most recent book, *Family Assessment: A Guide to Methods and Measures* (with Dr. Cindy Carlson, a family psychologist), has been enthusiastically welcomed as a resource by both researchers and clinicians.

Grotevant is a Fellow of the

*Grotevant continued on page 5*

## From the Department Head



Dear Readers:

We are very pleased to bring you this issue of **Interactions**, the newsletter of the University of Minnesota's Department of Family Social Science. The newsletter will be published twice a year and will bring you news of the department's faculty, students, staff, and alumni. We want to keep you informed of the most recent research being conducted by our faculty and students, activities relating to teaching and the Minnesota Extension Service, and news about faculty honors and awards.

We consider you an important part of our Family Social Science community. We hope you will inform us about your current activities so that we can begin including alumni news.

This issue highlights the many international linkages that characterize the current work of the faculty. In our era of rapid global change, the Family Social Science faculty are conducting projects or attending conferences in such far-flung places as the Soviet Union, Japan, Nicaragua, the West Indies, and Finland.

## Building International Bridges

As efficient transportation and rapid communication shrink our world, it is clear that an international perspective is essential in order to understand the family. Thus, the faculty in Family Social Science have targeted global awareness and international efforts as a priority. The following vignettes are highlights of recent international experiences.

### David Olson, Globe Trotter

**David Olson** will be giving plenary addresses at the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Kyoto, Japan, July 22-27, 1990 and at The First International Conference on Family Psychology at Tokyo, Japan on July 28-29, 1990.

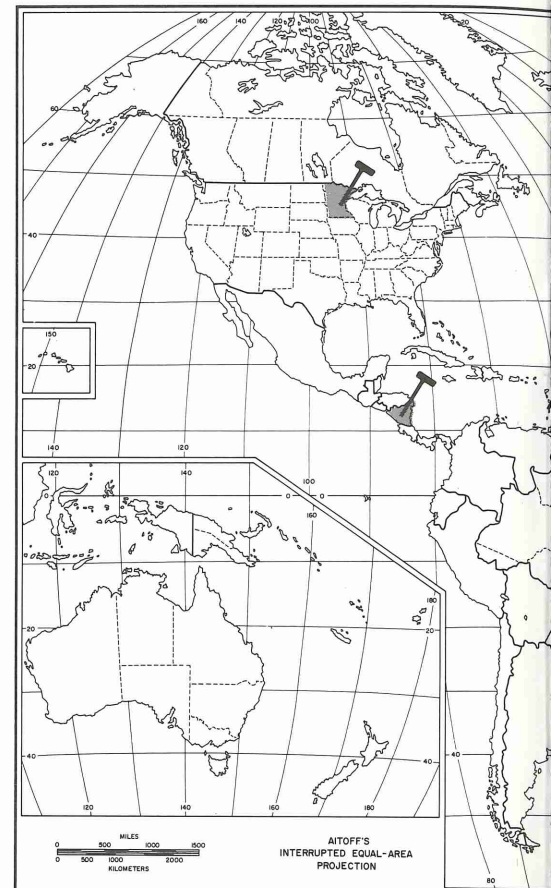
This February David was a keynote speaker and presented three plenary addresses at a premarital counseling conference in British Columbia. The first of the three topics David addressed was "Predicting Divorce and Identifying High Risk Couples", in which he addressed the value of premarital assessment and the effectiveness of intensive premarital counseling with couples who have a high risk for divorce. The second plenary address focused on "Effective Components in Premarital Counseling". The three most essential components in effective premarital programming involve the premarital assessment, an ongoing couples group of three to six sessions and skill building programs focusing on communication and conflict resolution. A third plenary address focused on the topic of "Family of Origin: Can You Really Leave Home?" In this session the Circumplex Model was described as a way of helping couples discuss their families of origin with each other particularly for how they handled everyday issues related to closeness, flexibility, and communication.

This conference was one of the few that has ever focused exclusively on premarital counseling and brought together a wealth of resource people and materials on this important issue.

### Family Financial Management in the West Indies

Walk up to any Minnesotan in the middle of February, ask if they are interested in a trip to the West Indies and it's a good bet they'll say yes. Visions of lying in the Jamaican sun sipping tropical drinks and discussing the virtues of sun block factor 15 may come to mind. However, if you include a few essential itinerary details such as ten to twelve hour work days filled with intensive training sessions, little or no time for sight seeing or beach lounging, you may narrow the number of interested travelers considerably.

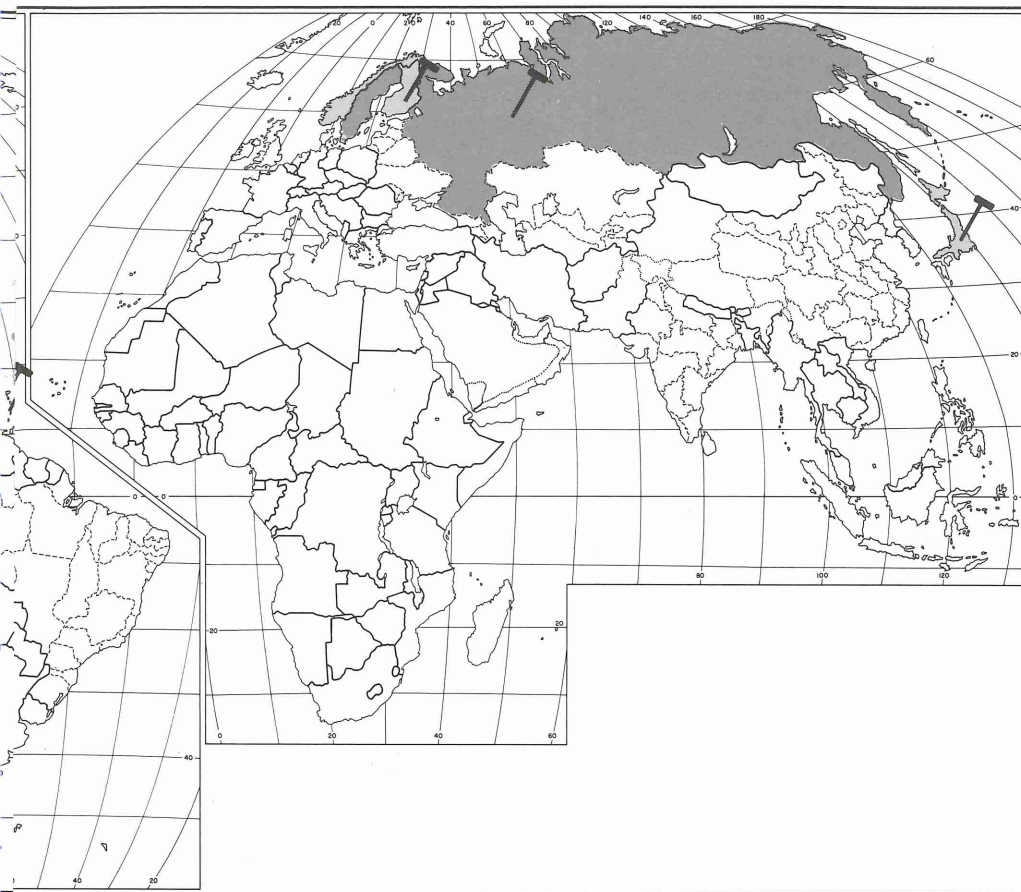
In fact, such a trip was undertaken and the number of travelers was limited. This February **Jean Bauer** and **Marlene Stum** traveled to the West Indies as part of a team teaching effort in family financial management in conjunction with the Agricultural Research and Education Project. The team spent the week teaching West Indies extension agents, university researchers, and Ministry of Agricultural officials about farm and home management. This was the first time such a program in the West Indies included family issues. Marlene and



Jean concurred that the trip was rewarding but exhausting. As proof of how hard they worked, neither had a tan when they returned!



Vegetable vendor in the West Indies



Courtesy of Geography Department, Cartography Lab, University of Minnesota

this lack of psychotherapy professionals combined with the tremendous amount of loss and disruption caused by the war, Constance feels it vital that the people be taught self therapy and self care.

Constance teaches in the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Education Program, which is part of Family Social Science. She currently teaches Ethics Seminar, Counseling Skills Practicum, and is a university site supervisor for counseling interns.

### Sexual Meaning in Scandinavia

**Jim Maddock** will be traveling to Scandinavia again this summer to meet with research teams in Denmark and Norway that are using Danish and Norwegian translations of the Sexual Meaning Scale he developed. Data have been collected from groups of people who have taken the scale in their own language and will be compared to data gathered from Danish and Norwegian individuals fluent in English who have completed the questionnaire in English. This will allow for a test of the quality of the translations.

### Networking in Finland

**Hal Grotevant** traveled to Jyväskylä, Finland last summer to participate in the biennial meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development. He organized a pre-conference workshop on "Adolescent Identity Development in the Context of the Family" that included participants from the Netherlands, New Zealand, Canada, and the U.S. As the meeting progressed, colleagues from other countries joined a network of researchers who now regularly communicate by BITNET, an electronic mail system linking universities world-wide. Hal can send messages to New Zealand or Finland that are received in about an hour! This summer he will travel to Oxford, England to present a paper at the meeting of the International Society for the Study of Personal Relationships.



Marlene Stum teaches family financial management principles in the West Indies

### Nicaraguan Therapy Efforts

**Constance Fabunmi** focuses much of her time lately on an emotional health project in the war zone of Nicaragua. In 1987 she went to Nicaragua to train therapists and leaders of a women's organization to perform therapy with victims of war trauma. The project has evolved and increased in complexity as several requests for psychotherapy training have poured in from a variety of sources. Presently, much of the project focuses on trying to illustrate the connection between stress and physical health and teaching ways to

improve health through various forms of self care and relaxation exercises.

As part of the resource development for this project, Constance recently worked with seven Latino women therapists in the Twin Cities to make audio tapes that deal with grief and loss, resolving conflict, natural remedies for infection, relaxation and socio-drama. These tapes are being used to help meet the health and wellness needs of families and individuals in Nicaragua.

Constance hopes to return to Nicaragua this summer to teach self care and relaxation directly to families and individuals and to work with support group leaders in rural organizations that address issues of loss and trauma. She anticipates that this work may involve assisting the process of assimilation for contras coming back into society, given the changes currently taking place in the political structure. Constance will also be training with doctors and health educators who are about to serve in rural areas in an attempt to teach them about psychotherapy. Constance states that the society of Nicaragua is essentially barren of therapists. Given

*Bridges continued on page 4*



photo by Dan Detzner

Generations of Soviets gather around a fountain

### Families in the U.S. and U.S.S.R.: A Collaborative Book

Two symposia have been held to date between Family Social Science faculty and family researchers in the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Soviet professors traveled to the Twin Cities in November, 1988 to meet with Family Social Science faculty, and eight Family Social Science faculty visited the USSR to continue discussions and plan further collaborative efforts. Many of our faculty were fortunate enough to bring along their spouses as well.

The faculty group included **Pauline Boss, Sharon Danes, Dan Detzner, William Doherty, James Maddock, David Olson, Marlene Stum, and Shirley Zimmerman.**

On January 31 the faculty presented impressions and perspectives on their experiences in the Soviet Union. They also shared information about collaborative studies and an upcoming book featuring chapters co-authored by Soviet and Family Social Science faculty. **James Maddock** and **M. Janice Hogan** are co-editors of the English-language version of the book, which is titled: ***Families in the U.S. and U.S.S.R.: On the Threshold of the Twenty-First Century.***

Support for this project has come from the Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Home Economics, as well as from several private foundations.

### Cross-Generational Images in Soviet Russia

One of the questions which consistently brought a laugh to faculty is "What are your hobbies". Most faculty are so busy that having a hobby is often not a priority or possibility.

Last August, however, **Dan Detzner** managed to combine his interest in photography with his work as a family scientist specializing in aging and cross-generational issues while in the Soviet Union as part of the faculty exchange. The resulting photos seen here provide an artistic glimpse of a Soviets across many generations.

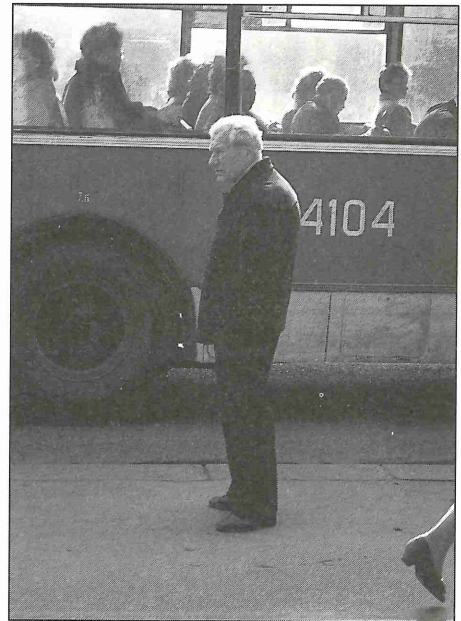


photo by Dan Detzner

An elderly man waits for a bus in Moscow



University of Minnesota delegation in front of Moscow State University. L to R: Dan Detzner, Bill Doherty, David Olson, Leah Doherty, Karen Olson, Jan Hogan, Shirley Zimmerman, Noel Larson, Jim Maddock, Sharon Danes, Pauline Boss, Dudley Riggs.



Family Social Science faculty present a panel discussion following their return from the Soviet Union. L to R: Jim Maddock, Bill Doherty, Shirley Zimmerman, Dan Detzner.

## Passing the NCFR Presidential Torch

David Olson to Jan Hogan



David Olson and Jan Hogan

As President of NCFR from 1988 to 1989, one of **David Olson's** primary goals was to restructure NCFR to make it a more effective organization. David appointed **Jan Hogan**, President-Elect at the time, to chair the Strategic Planning Committee and set the stage for an external evaluation. Jan states that the first steps involved "deciding who we were and what we wanted to be". She and David were aware that the Board of Directors had made the same recommendations for change on numerous occasions and met with the similar obstacles each time. They agreed it would be necessary to find an outside consultant to recommend changes in the structure and devise a long term plan.

Susan Stevens and Associates were hired as the consultants, and came to the NCFR Board meeting to conduct a six hour workshop including new and old Board of Directors. During this workshop they sought to clarify NCFR's values, gain understanding of what NCFR's constituent members sought from the organiza-

tion, and develop an understanding of where they were interested in going. The long range plan created by Strategic Planning will be presented in April 1990 at the NCFR board of directors meeting. As President, Jan will be overseeing the start of the implementation from April through November, when she will pass the torch on to Linda Walters.

In addition to the long term focus which David and Jan have worked very hard to develop, attention to more immediate goals has also played a large role in their work with NCFR. For instance, a major project of David's was the Presidential Report *2001: Preparing Families for the Future*. David states that the two primary functions served by the report were to give greater visibility of family science to policy makers and legislators at federal and state levels and to increase awareness of NCFR as a resource on family issues.

As current President, Jan has also focused on the November conference: "Children and Their Families" in Seattle, Washington November 9-14, 1990. This is the first time in its history that the theme of the NCFR meeting has focused on children.

Reflecting on her year thus far as President, Jan mentions that "One of the things I like most about NCFR is the sense of community one gets from the organization. I rarely feel stress in my position as NCFR President. I feel honored but also at home within this group of professionals."

## Adolescent Substance Use and Divorce

**Bill Doherty** and **Rich Needle** have recently completed a study of the psychological adjustment and substance use among adolescents prior to and after their parent's divorce. Results indicated that girls experienced psychological adjustment problems prior to the separation of their parents and that boys did not experience problems until after the divorce, at which point boys tended to have adjustment problems and substance abuse problems. Girls continued to have adjustment problems at approximately the same level after divorce as before. The results of the study appear in their paper currently under review: "Psychological Adjustment and Substance use Among Adolescents Before and After A Parental Divorce."

Bill worked on this project with Rich Needle (principal investigator) from 1985 to 1990. Funding for the project was provided by an \$ 875,000 grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

## Student news

**Walter Bera** received a grant for \$ 3,500 from the Hubert H. Humphrey Center's Social Conflict and Change Program.

"I received one of a number of seed grants toward the development of new family theory and policy in the conflict area. My grant is focused on families and sexual abuse. I received the proposal request in my Family Social Science mail box and saw it as an opportunity to follow up on a long term interest I have in the need for sexual abuse theory and policy that addresses victims and offenders and the multiple systems involved in any one case. I really encourage other students to respond to grant proposal requests".

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*Grotevant continued from page 1*

American Psychological Association and the 1988 recipient of the James D. Moran Research Award of the American Home Economics Association for his research on adolescents and their families.

Hal's wife Susan is also a Minnesota graduate, having received her M.B.A. from the Carlson School of Management. She is currently Deputy Commissioner of the State Board of Insurance in Texas and will be joining him when the school year is over.

They have two sons: Paul, 17, and Mark, 4. Paul also has a Minnesota connection as an alumnus of the University's Shirley G. Moore Laboratory Preschool. He is a National Merit finalist and will be attending the University of Texas next fall. Mark, the only family member who hasn't lived in Minnesota, is very excited about living where there is snow, which he has only seen two or three times in his life!

## Children's Attitudes on Divorce

**Shirley Zimmerman** is currently studying the attitudes that children have about divorce by using essays children have written to "Mindworks", an essay contest featured once a month in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* newspaper. One preliminary finding is that 100 percent of the children who mentioned in their essay that their parents were divorced cited infidelity as the reason. Children whose parents were not divorced said that they thought people got divorced for financial reasons.

## P.B. in N.Y.C.

**Pauline Boss** presented a two day workshop titled "Ambiguous Loss: Understanding Clinical Interventions in Unresolved Loss" at the Ackerman Institute in New York City on March 16 & 17. Pauline says that she is excited to be doing the workshop in New York because she thinks that she will benefit from an east coast perspective on life. "I'm becoming increasingly aware of our midwest perspective and how this permeates the research we do. I think it's important to understand that families in other regions such as the east coast have different day to day realities."

## What Would Your M.O.M. Say About You?

**Ken Doyle** is in the process of developing a test that will measure the symbolic meaning that money holds for people. The name of the test is the Money Orientation Measure (MOM). Ken is currently administering the test to couples in a variety of age and occupational groups to determine if the test will discriminate among the groups. Ken is also working with a Danish foreign exchange student who seeks to develop a Danish version of the Money Orientation Measure.

Ken's hope for the project is that the tests will ultimately serve as a means of conflict reduction in families by uncovering the symbolic meaning money holds for each family member. Ken plans to have a new version of the test completed by this summer.

## Administrative Staff News



New Civil Service Staff. L to R: Pam Videen, Diane Wulf, Lorraine Haley, Susan Payette, Ooi Le

The administrative staff for the Department has had several newcomers over the last year. **Ooi Le** is the new Senior Accountant. She says that she is happy to be here because "the people in the department are very nice. The department cares about staff development and the environment is more relaxed and friendly than my previous job." Ooi is responsible for managing the budget, payroll, and bookkeeping for the department, as well as for helping the professors manage their grant money.

**Pam Videen** is the department's new Word Processing Specialist. In her "other life" Pam is majoring in Textiles and Clothing and volunteers

## Rich Needle Goes to Washington

**Rich Needle** will be taking a leave from the department in order to become a Senior Staff Fellow at the National Institute of Drug Abuse. He will begin his term in Washington in April and plans to remain in the position for two years. Rich says that he is very excited to be taking the position because it will allow him to oversee several major AIDS initiatives taking place throughout the country. His responsibilities will include designing, developing, implementing and managing a cooperative agreement mechanism between the Community Research Branch and research institutions funded by NIDA.

at the Goldstein Gallery.

**Susan Payette** is the new Principal Secretary for the Department. She says that she enjoys working on the Saint Paul campus, likes the subject matter and the people that she works with. When not at work, she is a church volunteer and a committee chairperson for the Boy Scouts.

**Diane Wulf** is the Executive Secretary for the Twin Cities IV Drug and Aids Research Project. She says that she enjoys her work because it has brought her closer to the community.

**Virginia (Lorraine) Haley** is the newest member of the team, beginning her appointment as Executive Secretary for the department on March 26. Lorraine is responsible for the administrative management of the graduate and undergraduate programs as well as supervision of the FSoS clerical staff. Lorraine had previously been Principal Secretary with Home Economics Extension where she assisted the state program leader with national/state association activities and research. Prior to her University experience, Lorraine worked for Control Data and Creative Management Systems in Overland Park, Kansas. Her hobbies include: entertaining, sewing, reading, movies and traveling.

*Interactions*, the newsletter of the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, is published twice a year.

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Roger Light, Administrative Fellow

### DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Harold D. Grotevant

Your comments are welcome. Please direct them to:

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## What is ADCEP?

The Alcohol and Drug Counseling Education Program, established in 1969, places a clear emphasis on the theories and models that have been developed to explain the nature and causes of chemical health problems. High priority is placed on exposing students to the vastly different approaches of treatment and recovery services matched to the needs of the client and significant other persons. Students in this program range from 19 to 64 years of age and are often seeking this specialization as part of their bachelors or masters degree. The Program is offered through Continuing Education and Extension.

**William Goodman** is Director of the Alcohol and Drug Counseling Education Program (ADCEP). He works with undergraduate and graduate students who are seeking certification in the Alcohol and Drug Counseling Education field. As adjunct Assistant Professor in Family Social Science, he teaches and makes frequent presentations at state and national meetings.

## New Insights On the Transition to Parenthood

**Geraldine Gage** and **Donna Henricksen Christensen** recently completed a study examining the relationships among wives' post-partum weight gain, wives' perceptions of self-worth, husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction, and marital conflict. The study found that wives' post-partum weight gain was associated with a decline in wives' self-esteem, a decline in wives' perception of parental competence, a decline in husbands' marital satisfaction and an increase in husbands' reported marital conflict.

The findings demonstrate how societal emphasis on thinness as a norm for women impacts negatively of husbands' ratings of marital satisfaction, and on wives' perception of their personal and parental worthiness. Geraldine and Donna presented the results of this study at the National Council on Family Relations in November of 1989.

## Minnesota Farm Women: Who They Are and What They Do

**Sharon Danes** has recently completed a research project which examined the work roles, decision making responsibilities and marital satisfaction of farm women. The impetus for the project came from a phone call from the Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture requesting information about farm women. At the time Sharon knew little about farm women. However, because Sharon has always had a long term interest in how women help families manage, the call intrigued her and she pursued the topic. After much individual effort, Sharon managed to recruit 513 women in farm families for her study.

A primary focus of the investigation was the balance between work and leisure among farm women, and the relationship between farm women involvement in farm/home decisions and satisfaction with marital relationship. Her study found that high involvement in farm decisions was strongly related to high satisfaction with marital relationship and that low involvement in farm decisions was strongly related to low satisfaction with their marital relationship.

Despite the importance of the study, Sharon encountered some initial resistance to her findings. Sharon states that "Little work has been done that investigates how the marital relationship affects the farm operation. So when my data showed that there is a relatively high relationship, some of the traditional agriculture and rural sociology professionals did not want to accept that it was true."

Sharon's study was funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation.

## Don't Touch That Dial

**Janet Macy**, Extension information specialist, presents guests on Radio Station KUOM that deal with family, aging, psychology and related matters. Beginning this summer, University Radio (770 on the AM dial) will feature Janet's interviews on Saturday afternoons.

### What Are You Up To?

We would like to keep in touch with your current address and activities. Please drop us a line and fill us in! If you know the address of other alumni and friends who have moved, let us know that as well.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Degree and year: \_\_\_\_\_

Current activities, achievements, Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Awards and Honors

**Kathryn Rettig** has been awarded the 1990 Applied Consumer Economics award for "Income Equivalence Calculations for Divorce Decisions" a study she completed with **Donna Christensen, Carla M. Dahl** and **Wilma Womack**. She received the award at the Council of Consumer Interests meeting this March in New Orleans.

## Social Support for People Who Encounter Death

**Paul Rosenblatt** (with **Pat Spoentgen, Terri Karis, Tamara Kaiser, Carla Dahl, and Carol Elde**) has been studying the support people give to somebody dealing with a death. One of the interesting findings is that when support is given for a loss that the support-giver is also grieving, there is more likely to be disagreement, conflict, and other difficulties in the relationship.

## Interactions

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Student Perspectives

### Roger Light

Numerous buzz words and catch phrases are flying around the Department these days: building bridges, enhancing interaction, clarifying theoretical perspectives, to name a few. Working on this newsletter and in this department in general, I have seen many concrete examples of these phrases in action.

As part of the 1989 cohort of graduate students I shared with my colleagues the desire to see more interaction take place among graduate students and among students and faculty. We decided that a student lounge would be a good starting point. With the help of the faculty and the latest cohort of students, the lounge opened this winter.

My cohort was also interested in enhancing our understanding of theory. The faculty shared this interest as well and proposed two

new theory courses. The two courses were offered during the fall and spring of this academic year. I was given the opportunity to assist both **Jim Maddock** in developing the new Systems Theory course and **David Olson** in creating the new Theory Development course. I believe both courses are serving to clarify theoretical perspectives, enhance critical reasoning skills and lay the groundwork for our own theory development efforts.

From the perspective of a student in this department I am aware that many efforts to connect are taking place at this time. The examples I have given above are only two within a larger pattern. Hopefully this newsletter communicates this theme, both as a reflection of what exists and as an intent to further our efforts.

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