

2-5	In the Halls
6	Course Work
7-11	Out and About
12	Events
13	CEHD Awards

Interactions

Summer 2008 Vol. 25

Family Social Science Newsletter



Family Social Science Colloquium

by Sara Axtell

This year, I had the opportunity to coordinate the Family Social Science colloquium. Since I started working in Family Social Science in 2006, the colloquium has been a favorite part of my week—a time to see student and faculty colleagues and participate in rich discussions of family studies issues. So I was pleased to have a chance to “give back” to the colloquium.

continued on page 8



Shanghai-courtyard entry by Jason L. Wilde, M.S., Ph.D. candidate, presented at the April 23rd colloquium: *Family Professional Needs and Opportunities in China: Observations and Reflections on a Recent Visit.*

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
+ HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Letter from the Department Head

Thriving and evolving educational community

It is so important that FSoS thrive – as higher education continues to evolve in the 21st century, we are faced with exciting opportunities both within and outside the university. We approach these opportunities in a variety of ways to insure that we are accomplishing our strategic goals and aligning with college and university missions. At the core of this work is our commitment to excellence in a climate of constant change. In this issue of Interactions, we highlight some of the ways we are thriving and recognize excellence.

I believe you will find that this issue of Interactions beautifully reflects the richness, diversity, and vibrancy here in Family Social Science. We highlight the success of individuals and collaborations with others. You will find engaging stories and interviews with specific individuals as well as highlights about a collaborative project exploring transnational work and family issues. This project is so exciting because it involves FSoS faculty, regional extension educators, and graduate students working with faculty and graduate students in Mexico.

We are also highlighting our FSoS Colloquium Series, a long-standing weekly departmental event, and our FSoS 2101, Preparation for Working with Families class. Sara Axtell coordination of the colloquium series this year has been wonderful. Her connections with collaborators within the University, and in our surrounding communities, have enabled us to have great diversity in topics and presenters. Throughout the year, we have been enriched as scholars. William Goodman’s FSoS 2101 class is a meaningful and rich course for our undergraduates. Students are challenged to think critically as they explore options for helping others.

No other event this year has made me more proud than the recent College of Education and Human Development Honors and Awards Ceremony. Wow, FSoS was outstanding! Six of our colleagues received collegiate awards this year. Each and every one is well deserved. We celebrate their excellence and dedication to the FSoS community!



My Best Wishes,

B. Ann McCulloch

Shonda Craft

Assistant Professor

It was by a “complete fluke” Shonda came to FSoS from The Ohio State University where she received her Ph.D. While submitting a proposal to present a poster at the 2007 NCFR annual meeting, she came across the organization’s job board with the open position at the University of Minnesota. Intrigued with the position and impressed with the MFT program, she applied. The FSoS search committee, which consisted of William Turner, Bill Doherty, Catherine Solheim, Blong Xiong, Sandy Christians (Educational Psychology), and Jared Anderson (MFT student) found Shonda to be extremely mature with a strong identity as a therapist, committed to community engagement and collaboration. Bill Doherty recalled that Shonda “impressed us with her beyond-her-years-of-experience perspective on the field, her emerging identity as a researcher, therapist, and change agent, and her exceptional and nuanced grasp of multicultural issues in the field. She also had wonderful poise and presence with small and large groups, which cued us into her ability as a teacher. We saw Shonda as a future star in the field.”

As Assistant Professor, Shonda is teaching courses related to family systems theory, family therapy interventions, problems in families, and supervision. Her clinical and research interests focus on the intersections of public health, culture, sexuality, and gender with an emphasis on identity development, health disparities, and social policy. Shonda has co-authored scientific publications regarding men and



women with HIV, pregnancy decisions, sexual behaviors, and intimate partner violence. She is a member of the editorial board of Student Health Spectrum, and holds professional membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the American College Health Association. In 2008, she received funding from the President’s Faculty Multicultural Research Award and the Faculty Summer Research Fellowship to pursue her research interests.

The University of Minnesota, President’s Faculty Multicultural Research Award will fund research on hip-hop cultural identity and its impact on adolescent sexuality.

The purpose of the research is to conceptualize hip-hop culture, and to explore its influence on adolescent sexual attitudes and behaviors in order to: verify and expand upon common characteristics cited in literature, discuss the influence of hip-hop culture on sexual attitudes and behaviors, and discuss specifically the influence of hip-hop media (i.e., song lyrics, music videos, movies, and magazines) on sexual attitudes and behaviors.

Shonda and Kimberly Diggles, Graduate Research Assistant (FSoS doctoral

student, MFT program), will recruit a representative and diverse sample of at least 120 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 18 years old who reside in the Minneapolis/St Paul metro area to participate in a series of focus groups. The questions posed to the focus groups will center on the central research hypotheses. None of the focus group questions will ask for any information about individual sexual behavior, preferences, or history. The goal is to obtain general opinions about the hypothesized relationship between hip-hop culture and sexual attitudes and behaviors rather than information about individuals or their behaviors.

The University of Minnesota, Faculty Summer Research Fellowship will fund: *Contextualization of the sexual relationships of men “on the down-low.”*

The central hypothesis of this research project is that self-identified heterosexual men who are primarily involved in relationships with women secretly engage in sexual behaviors with men due to a cultural context that expects men to conform to expectations of masculinity, gender role, racial or ethnic identity, and religious orientation. Men who do not conform are more likely to experience conflict regarding their sexual identity than men who do conform, resulting in higher levels of risky sexual behaviors.

The purpose of this research is to understand the interplay of these sexuality constructs and culture, and then to use this understanding to improve the quality of men’s and women’s sexual relationships. This project is important for a number of reasons. First, very little is known about the context of the sexual practices of self-identified heterosexual men who have sex with men. Second, if the motivations that underlie the behaviors of these men were understood, implications for HIV prevention

continued on page 5

Graduate Student: Sara Lassig



Sara Lassig received her B.S. in psychology, with a gerontology minor, from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. Six years ago, while enrolled in a clinical psychology graduate program in North Dakota she googled “family caregiving,” and happened upon Wayne Caron and the Family Caregiving Center.

Wayne invited her to attend a Saturday morning group. “The 6 hour drive to make that visit was life changing. I

watched Wayne interact with family caregivers and individuals with dementia, and watched the true meaning of ‘family caregiving’ play out right before my eyes.” Soon after, Sara transferred to the University and completed her M.A. in Family Social Science and continued directly into the doctoral program. She is concurrently completing her M.S.W. in Social Work at the University of Minnesota, and will complete both degrees in May.

Sara began volunteering at nursing homes when she was eight years old. In the beginning she helped with bingo, visiting, reading, and put on gymnastic shows for the residents, and then continued volunteering until she moved to college. This nurturing experience led her towards her educational and professional passions in gerontology and end-of-life issues. For her dissertation entitled “Saying goodbye during terminal illness,” Sara conducted qualitative interviews with

30 family members who had lost a loved one to a terminal illness.

Sara is also interested in health care policy and social justice issues, as her clinical experiences have involved many patients and families dealing with chronic and terminal illnesses, who have little or no health insurance. Sara has interned at the Wilder Foundation and currently is at the VA Medical Center.

Sara’s outreach and engagement includes family caregiving, end-of-life issues, and families dealing with health and mental health issues. She hopes to combine her background in Family Social Science and Social Work to work with families who are “navigating through these fragile yet intimate moments in a family system.”



Undergraduate Student: Cherry Vang



Cherry Vang is a third year FSoS student. Last November she participated in the 3-day Social Justice Leadership Retreat which she said was a powerful experience that gave her a new perspective of identities and how they impact our understanding of individuals and groups of people. This spring, Cherry was chosen by the CEHD Alumni Society to receive the Family Social Science Future Scholar Award (see news and notes).

This semester, Cherry is working with Abi Gewirtz on the Early Risers Project, working with the Parenting through Change group. While the mothers are participating in the parenting program, she helps facilitate 10-15 children ranging in age from 1-12 years old. Cherry spends time with them playing games, making crafts, and reading. She is learning how to negotiate her time when four children want her attention simultaneously. Cherry says “it’s a rewarding process to be able to get to know each child and show them that someone cares about them and finds them valuable.”

This summer Cherry will study abroad in Beijing and Shanghai, China. She will spend three weeks meeting with Olympic officials, city planners, athletes, environmental groups, and students from China’s most prestigious Sports Universities, experiencing firsthand the effects

of globalization on Chinese politics, culture, and society. Then during the fall of ‘08, Cherry will spend the semester abroad in Seoul, Korea, studying at Yonsei University, ranked as one of the top universities in Korea. This has been a dream of Cherry’s. She is eager to experience the dynamic intersection of modern and ancient Korea. The program makes it possible for her to participate in not only the academic life in Korea, but also the daily life of Korean society. Cherry believes studying abroad will have a significant impact on her personally and professionally, allowing her the opportunity to broaden her perspectives, embrace cultural differences, and find commonalities with the larger world. This is critical to her education since after graduation next year, she plans to work with families from various ethnic backgrounds.

Exit Interview with Hal

Hal Grotevant has been Professor of Family Social Science since arriving here as Department Head in 1990. He is moving at the end of spring semester to assume the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The chair is located in the child, adolescent, and family concentration within the clinical psychology program and focuses on adoption research. We had the chance to ask him a few questions as he was heading toward the door.

Why are you moving?

For an opportunity I couldn't refuse. Building on a generous gift from an adoptive family, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst has decided to create an adoption research initiative that will bring the expertise of its existing and new faculty to develop evidence-based knowledge that will contribute to the healthy development of families whose lives are touched by adoption. The challenge of leading this initiative drew me to start a new, exciting chapter in my career. At the same time, I am very pleased to be appointed as Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota as I leave. This will give me an official, permanent connection to the department, college, and university.

How did you become interested in adoption research?

Through a research assistantship in my second year of graduate school (1974). During my first year, I held an RA position that wasn't the match I was hoping for. When I saw an announcement seeking RAs for a new grant concerning adoptive and biological families, I jumped at the chance. My dissertation came from that study, and it started me on the path toward my passion for understanding the world of adoption.

What have you learned through your research that surprised you most about families?

I have been studying open adoptions for over 20 years, and I continue to marvel at the unique adaptations each family makes to its own situation. How families



Hal in his office - busily planning, purging, and packing for his move to Massachusetts

"work" emerges from the fascinating blend of individual personalities, relationship skills, values, goals, and commitments. Our research is just beginning to tap into this complexity.

Did your children ever use your research against you to their advantage?

I distinctly remember when Paul (then about 4, now 35 with 2 kids of his own) and I were engaged in one of those parent-child "guidance" situations ... and he responded to me: "You always use your "knowing words" on me. When I grow up and you grow down, I'll show you!" A budding developmentalist at the ripe old age of 4.

How do you think social networking will affect the concept of "family" for people currently entering adulthood?

More than ever, people will be defining their families more inclusively, adding friends made in cyberspace. Social networking will also allow people to find family they didn't know they had. A few years ago, I posted an entry on my blog, Inner Geek, honoring my father on his 85th birthday. A woman in Alaska doing genealogy on the Grotevant family stumbled on my post after searching for the last name and then e-mailed me, asking whether we were both descended from Johan Grotevant, who was married in Kinderhook, NY in 1782. It seems that we were. We had both been entering some family data into the program

Family Tree Maker, which conveniently "calculates" peoples' relationships to one another. Turns out we are fifth cousins! After I wrote a post honoring an anthropology professor from my undergraduate days who had just died, I received comments and subsequent e-mails and pictures from his wife and daughter. The internet is making this growing world shrink. I find that fascinating and exciting.

What's been your most pleasant surprise about living in the Twin Cities?

The choral music scene. I've heard so many excellent choirs and have had the opportunity to sing in several wonderful groups. I've even been part of one group that gathers monthly in someone's living room to sing just for the pure joy of it. I have loved the challenge and the outcome that occurs when the whole is indeed greater than the sum of its parts. And it's great for our physical and mental health to boot.

What challenges and opportunities are in the future of Family Social Science?

Many people feel that they are experts about families because they grew up in one. Of course, there is validity to the expertise gained through lived experience, but how well does it generalize? Families will continue to need professionals who can share research-based perspectives on interpersonal relationships, management of family resources,

continued on page 5

Shonda Craft cont.

workers and relationship therapists could include the development of collaborative programs which help men and women with sexual communication (including the disclosure of previously secret behaviors), thereby reducing possible sexual risk behaviors. Shonda will use the fellowship period to identify community and campus collaborators in order to establish potential recruitment sites for the project, develop a comprehensive mixed methods research proposal, begin the Institutional Review Board process, and prepare for the submission of a NIH research proposal.

Shonda's research exploration is a key to the construction and evolution of FSoS's future. Her intelligence and daring insight will continue the Department's ground breaking research and forge the future strengths of FSoS.

Hal Grotevant cont.

mental health, and development across the life span. Developing and sharing that knowledge are the bread and butter of Family Social Science. But professionals in other disciplines study families as well. We need to be able to cross disciplinary lines in order to address the most compelling problems facing our increasingly diverse society. There is an immediate need for greater understanding of the genetic and neurobiological underpinnings of individual and family functioning and for integration of this knowledge into the field of family science. We've moved beyond the old debates of whether it's genes OR environment to ask how they work hand-in-hand across the life course. Family Social Science has a bright future ahead, easily seen in our new faculty and the important work they are carrying on.



Mobile Librarian

Scott Marsalis, the Libraries' liaison to Family Social Science has regular office hours in 376 McNeal on Wednesdays, from 1:00-2:00 during Fall and Spring semesters. He's also available by appointment, contact him at marsa001@umn.edu or 624-2219.

Services Scott provides include:

- Meeting with individuals or small groups to provide guidance with literature searches
- Making brief presentations in classes to outline strategies for library research or providing classes in the library for hands-on sessions on literature searching
- Ordering books, DVDs and other materials to support your research and teaching
- Assistance with RefWorks, the citation management software available at the U of M



- Consulting on integrating library research and information literacy skills into courses
- Discussing new publishing models and tools for retaining rights when submitting articles for publication

Visiting Scholar: Eunkeyeong Chang.



This past year Jean Bauer sponsored visiting scholar, Dr. Eunkeyeong Chang. Eunkeyeong was introduced to Jean by Yong Ja Kim, Ph.D. and founder of Consumer Economics Department at Sookmyung Women's University. Jean and Yong Ja Kim became friends while graduate students at the University of Illinois. Eunkeyeong's objective while a visiting scholar at FSoS was to study family and consumer affairs, information, and educational issues in the United States—a broad comparison of how Consumer Policy affects Korean and U.S. families. Since 1993, Eunkeyeong has worked as a researcher at the Korean Consumer Agency and lecturer Sookmyung Women's University, both located in Seoul. Eunkeyeong has enjoyed her year at the University/FSoS; she has been exposed to new teaching and quantitative research methods that she plans on implementing on her return to Seoul.

Preparation for Working With Families-FSoS 2101

Over the spring semester, students in William Goodman's FSoS 2101 class explored upper division education, research and field internships, and career possibilities in Family Social Science. Central to the focus of this course is the advancement of students' thinking power by utilizing six levels of thinking outlined by Bloom (1956): knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.



Philip Baumgarn (R), Recruitment Director at ACR and Rick (L). ACR has been providing services for Rick for over 15 years. They were guest lecturers on March 31.

ACR Student Comments

The strength of today's class was having speakers from both care-giving and care-receiving. Witnessing their relationship opened my mind to possibilities I've never had an opportunity to explore.

I learned more about Down syndrome from meeting Rick than I ever could in a text book. It was generous of him to talk with us about his interests and his life.

I found the presentation on the history of mental health institutions compelling. Understanding the background—politically, emotionally, historically—helps me understand the worth of a program like ACR on a deeper level.



Debra Davis from the Gender Education Center was guest lecturer on April 7. She shared with students her life experiences and working toward understanding, acceptance, and support for the transgender community.



Nikki Miller, Volunteer Coordinator with Planned Parenthood was guest lecturer on March 3rd. She described the clinic's reproductive health services for men and women

Planned Parenthood Student Comments

Going into the helping profession I expect to be confronted with issues and beliefs that are different from my own. It is my strong belief to be tolerant of others' opinions.

Class today supported and reassured me of my views of being open-minded. While it was very hard for me to sit through the presentation today, I did, and I respected the speaker.

One of the things that I value most about the U of M is that I am continuously exposed to different opportunities, perspectives, cultures, and ideas.



Gender Education Center Student Comments

The class had many questions for Debbie. Their questions really help me see another side of an issue that I would not have seen before. They ask questions that I have but am too afraid to ask.

I learned to differentiate between sexual identity and gender identity.

The strength of this class is to learn about highly controversial topics first hand, putting a human element to a topic that can generate much diversity, as well as potential adversity.



Jodi Castillo from the Muscular Dystrophy Association spoke with students on March 24. Jodi explained the various programs MDA offers, how their services have assisted those affected by the disease, and how each of us can help. She spoke about volunteering at the MDA summer camp. She is a great example of commitment and dedication and will remind us that every bit of effort is important.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Student Comments

I hope in time I can learn how to help all different types of people who aren't the same as me.

This course has opened my eyes to many new things, such as new programs, new ways of speaking and listening.

I am wondering what stereotypes I am holding within myself and how they may affect the people I work with in the future. The strength of today's class was that many of us considered what we feel towards others and how we may relate to people differently than us by experiencing diversity.

Alumnus: Joel Imrie

My post-baccalaureate life has found me amidst 10 months of service with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC).

For the past eight weeks I've been a tutor/mentor/classroom helper/teacher at Jeff Davis Elementary School. Jeff Davis, the first and only president of the Confederacy, is famed for stating, "Never be haughty to the humble or humble to the haughty." That's right; I am quoting a man

who was elected president of the part of the country that supported slavery. Not your average Gandhi quote, right? Jeff Davis Elementary, named after this eloquent yet ignorant and misinformed man is located in Biloxi, Mississippi; a recovering gulf-coast city whose economy is dominated by an air-force base and waterfront casinos.

I was intrigued by this quote because it quite well synthesizes my Family Social Science (FSoS) experiences with my time in the NCCC. Upon graduation, I had no idea of the direction I wanted to head. The NCCC was appealing because it offered a plethora of activities, traveling, and spending copious time with colleagues just as Odyssean as myself. It turns out I just needed a little coaxing in my quest for a career.

Throughout my undergraduate career, I mastered the skill of averting snobbiness towards those less fortunate. I learned to empathize, utilize listening skills, parrot, and see people for who they are and

where they are at. I was great at connecting with people and passionate about creating social change. I truly understood not being, "haughty to the humble."



My involvement with the NCCC (and natural progression of maturity) has allowed me to cease humbling myself to the insolent. Reading individually with children and seeing their enjoyment of books as well as their proficiency increase has taught me to speak out when people complain that "you can take someone out of

the ghetto, but you can't take the ghetto out of someone." Creating activities for dozens of after-school attendees and seeing them laugh and smile while learning has allowed me to stand my ground

Being a positive male role model to children who have fallen behind because they missed a month of school when Hurricane Katrina hit and children who have a parent serving overseas is quite empowering and detrimental to accepting arrogant behavior.

when people advise me that, "there isn't a lot of money to be made in a career of education." Being a positive male role model to children who have fallen behind because they missed a month of school when Hurricane Katrina hit or children who have a parent serving overseas is quite empowering and detrimental to accepting arrogant behavior.

I am always changing and progressing-from FSoS to NCCC to whatever acronym is next (my goal is to become a teacher). I keep learning and finding new places for inspiration. My time as a FSoS undergraduate taught me to think outside the box and also find value in everything. My time in the NCCC has exposed me to new and exotic aspects of the country. Combined, I can explore the words of a tainted historical figure and find inspiration. Why not?



The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18–24. The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, and faith-based and other community organizations, members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.

Attention Alumni We are looking for you!

Specifically, we're looking
for content for
INTERACTIONS

Send news of your
educational achievements,
promotions, recent awards or
project announcements, and
images (300dpi, min 3 x 3, jpg,
less than 3MB) to
sandre@umn.edu

Reconnect with FSoS

Mexican Agricultural Workers in Minnesota: A Study of Transnational Work and Family Issues

Over spring break Cathy Solheim (PI), Trish Olson, Virginia Zuiker, Ella Packingham (grad student), Ali Hurtado (WCHE grad student), Antonio Alba (Regional Extension Educator in Mankato), and Gabriela Burk (Extension Program Assistant in Dodge Center) went to Mexico City to meet with Georgina Rojas and Gonzalo Saravi from Centro de Investigaciones Y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) to discuss the project titled “Mexican Agricultural Workers in Minnesota: A Study of Transnational Work and Family Issues” and develop the coding scheme for data analysis. Data analysis will occur in both Spanish and English (originally collected in Spanish and translated into English) in our respective countries.

The project is funded by the U.S. Department Agriculture as an International Science and Education Grant. The purposes are broader than research including: a) developing faculty and graduate students’ competencies in cross-cultural and

cross-national research methodology and collaboration; b) developing case studies for use in undergraduate and graduate courses; c) developing training modules for agribusiness employers, managers, and community-based service agencies; and d) developing educational materials for Mexican families working in Minnesota’s agricultural sector.

The team is interviewing two family members—a worker in Minnesota and a family member in Mexico who receives remittances from the MN worker. They are asking questions regarding the work environment here in Minnesota, social support networks, benefits, sources of incomes and how it’s used here and in Mexico, decision-making about resource use, challenges and worries about family in MN and in Mexico and the impact on working, goals and dreams, quality of life, sending of remittances (process, reasons, uses), communication with family and involvement in children’s lives, etc.

We have completed 20 interviews of individuals in Minnesota. Our colleagues in Mexico are locating family members identified by the Minnesota person to interview in Mexico. They have completed eight interviews and are working on the remainder.



Family Social Science Colloquium

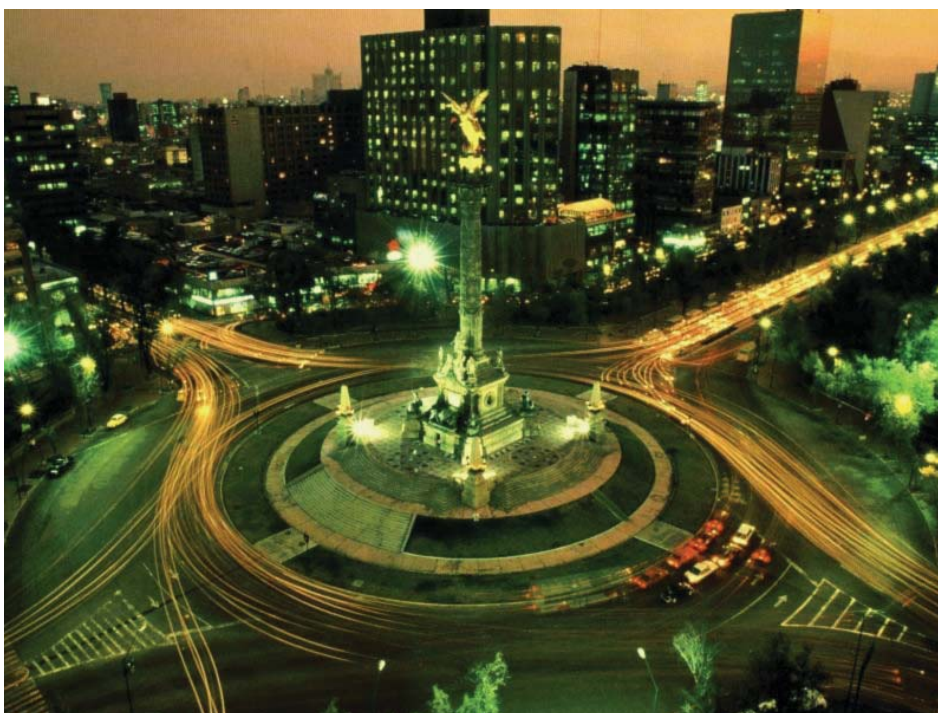
FSoS Colloquium-Sara Axtell cont.

As the Community-Campus Health Liaison, my role is to promote community-campus collaborations. I believe that the colloquium is an excellent venue for creating or expanding upon connections between our department and local community groups. So, my goal for the year was to include a number of presentations by community organizations, as a way to open or continue discussion about areas of mutual interest.

Several community organizations agreed to come to campus to lead colloquium sessions. Staff and volunteers from Rainbow Families (www.rainbowfamilies.org) talked about their work to provide community support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender families. Barbara Rudnick from the Jewish Family and Children’s Services (www.jfcsmpls.org) talked about her work with interfaith families. Faculty member Liz Wieling was joined by colleagues from the Center for Victims of Torture (www.cvt.org) for an overview of the collaborative initiatives they are developing.

I also felt honored to have two cultural elders leading discussions this year. Atum Azzahir from the Cultural Wellness Center (www.ppcwc.org) in Minneapolis talked about faculty and elders sharing intellectual authority in research. Betty GreenCrow from the American Indian Council of Elders (www.tc.umn.edu/~ailrc-mn/5progs/council_of_elders.html) here at the University of Minnesota talked about the history of boarding schools and American Indian families.

It’s been a very exciting year, and I look forward to seeing the special contributions of the next colloquium coordinator!



Angel de la Independencia, Mexico City

“**Family Social Science Colloquium** is a central part of our departmental culture; a place where faculty, staff, and students have the opportunity to engage in diverse presentations and discussions among themselves and with campus and community colleagues.”

- B. Jan McCulloch



April 2

Heather Haberman, Ph.D. candidate

Online Research Methods Among Family Social Scientists: The Diffusion of an Innovation



April 16

Victoria Neau, Project and Support Coordinator, CEHD Academic Technology Services *The CEHD Survey Tool: An Overview*



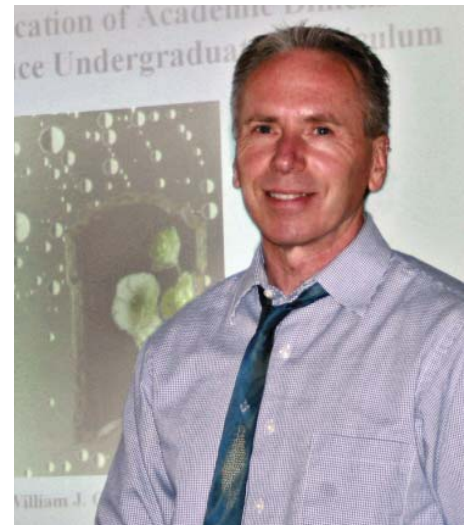
March 26

Soehee Son and Jaerim Lee Ph.D. candidates *Getting Married in Korea: Economic, Historical, and Legal Contexts*



March 12

Bill Doherty, Family and Community Neighborhood in CEHD: *What's Happening and How to Plug In*



April 30

William Goodman, Ph.D. *Family Review and Application of Academic Dimensions on a Family Science Undergraduate Curriculum*



April 9 Christopher Erbes, VA Medical Center, *Couple Relationships, Deployment Stress and Posttraumatic Stress in Returning Iraq/Afghanistan Soldiers*



March 5

Adine Stokes, Acting Director, Wayne Caron Family Caregiving Center and Ted Ginkel, family caregiver. *The Journey of Living with Dementia : The Work of the Wayne Caron Family Caregiving Center*

Faculty News

Sara Axtell has received an Outstanding Partners in Engagement award from the Campus Community Coordinators Alliance.

Pauline Boss is speaking at UC Berkeley's Tribute to Jim Gray on May 31. Jim Gray, a Silicon Valley legend, is known for his ground breaking work as a programmer, database expert and Microsoft engineer. Gray's work helped make possible such technologies as the cash machine, ecommerce, online ticketing, and deep databases like Google. Jim Gray disappeared without a trace on a sailing trip to the Farallon Islands on January 28, 2007.

Speakers at the tribute will address the attributes and accomplishments that contributed to Gray's world renowned reputation.

- Joe Hellerstein, professor of Computer Science at UC Berkeley, will give the tribute's opening remarks.
- Leading therapist and researcher Pauline Boss will speak on understanding ambiguous loss.
- Mike Olson, vice president of Embedded Technologies at Oracle, will discuss the search effort for Gray.
- Mike Harrison, professor of Computer Science at UC Berkeley, will explore Gray's impact on Berkeley.
- Microsoft Architect Pat Helland will speak about Gray as a mentor to his colleagues, while Ed Lazowska, who holds the Bill & Melinda Gates Chair in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington, will discuss Gray's capacity as a mentor for faculty and students.
- Mike Stonebraker, professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at UC Berkeley, will discuss why Gray received so many awards.
- David Vaskevitch, Microsoft's senior vice president and CTO for Business Platform, and Rich Rashid, Microsoft's senior vice president of research, will speak about Gray's contributions to the computing industry.

Registration and other information can be found at: <http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/ipro/jimgraytribute>

Shonda Craft has received the President's Faculty Multicultural Research Award. The award, sponsored by the Office of the Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity, are designed to encourage and support research on issues related to people of color in North America.

In April, **Bill Doherty** participated on a panel discussing *The Changing American Family* at The New School in New York City. The panel, comprised of social scientists, presented objective and unsentimental views of the family and addresses basic questions about family life in the United States today. Where such writers of social science once spoke simply of "the family," they now speak of "the diversity of family forms" and the rapidity with which those forms can change. How do popular myths about family life compare with verifiable realities? What constitutes a marriage or a divorce? How do contemporary adult work patterns affect family life? The panel consisted of Doyle McCarthy, professor of sociology at Fordham University and author of *Knowledge as Culture*; Arlene Skolnick, visiting scholar, Sociology Department, NYU and author of *Embattled Paradise*; and Andrew J. Cherlin, Johns Hopkins University professor and author of *Public and Private Families: An Introduction* - The New School.

Bill Doherty and **Jason Wilde**, Ph.D. candidate were seen on WCCO on April 10 talking about the Family Formation Project.

Bill Doherty, and Ph.D. students **Mary Kelleher**, and **Tai Mendenhall** co-authored the following chapter with Macaran Baird: "Overcoming Depression in a Strange Land: A Hmong Woman's Journey in the World of Western Medicine" which was published April, 2008, in *Collaborative Medicine Case Studies: Evidence in Practice*, R. Kessler & D. Stafford, Eds. New York: Springer.

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), the oldest, multi-disciplinary non-partisan professional organization focused solely on family research, practice and education, has elected **Jodi Dworkin** as Secretary/Treasurer of the Education and Enrichment Section. Education and Enrichment section shares information on effective family life education, teaching materials and methods, and marriage enrichment interests. Focus Groups include Marriage and Family Enrichment, Certified Family Life Educators, Sexuality, Parent Education, Families and Grief, and Peace. **Jan McCulloch** has been named Chair of the NCFR Family and Health Section. The mission of the Family and Health Section is to promote the health of diverse families and their members through interdisciplinary activities that facilitate excellence in family health practice, research, education, and policy development.

Jan McCulloch and **Sara Lassig**, Ph.D. candidate were invited speakers at the Minnesota Gerontological Society's 2008 Annual Conference *Aging and the Family... It's all in the Genes!* on April 25. Their topic is Rural Issues in Caregiving.

INTERACTIONS is published quarterly by the Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota. It is distributed to alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the department. We welcome your comments, ideas, suggestions, opinions, and news items which you can send to sandre@umn.edu

B. Jan McCulloch, Department Head
Susan Andre, Editor and Layout Design

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. ©2008 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.

Faculty News cont.

Kathy Rettig shared her research on child support and the impact on children, including the theory and policy implications of the equivalency approach in a seminar entitled *Family Financial Well Being After the Break-Up – What Is the Impact of Minnesota’s Child Support Guidelines?* at the 2008 Family Law Institute in March 2008, at the St Paul RiverCentre.

In March, **Paul Rosenblatt** was on KMSP commenting on a recent study that links men doing housework to increased sexual intimacy with their partners.



Cathy Solheim and **Pa Nhia Yang**, graduate student, presented *Financial Management in Hmong Immigrant Families: Change and Adaptation* at the Hmong National Development Conference in Denver on March 28.

William Turner, 2007-08 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, currently working in the Office of U.S. Senator Barack Obama, spoke at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Public Health on April 10. The seminar, entitled *Health Disparities and Policy: Eliminating Health Disparities and Expanding our Definitions of Health Policy*, was sponsored



Senator Obama and William Turner in the Senator’s D.C. office after a staff meeting

by the Center for Aging & Diversity/Institute on Aging and the Department of Health Policy and Administration.

Student News

CEHD Alumni Society Awards were given to **Gabrielle Hurd** and **Cherry Vang**; they received the Family Social Science Future Scholar Award. **Peggy Andrews** received the Larry Wilson Award. Recipients were honored at the society’s annual awards celebration on April 18, at the McNamara Alumni Center.

Sara Lassig successfully defended her dissertation: *Saying Goodbye During A Terminal Illness*

Jane Newell successfully defended her masters thesis: *Openness to Experience: Links to communicative and structural openness in adoptive kinship networks.*

Paul Okeyo Orieny successfully defended his dissertation: *African Immigrants’ Stressful Marital and Family Experiences*

Ella Packerham successfully defended her masters thesis: *Money and Marriage: Financial Organization and Decision-Making in Newly Married Couples.*

Libby Plowman successfully defended her master’s thesis: *Home for the Holidays: Examining the Association between Parental Dementia and Intergenerational Ambivalence in the Context of Family Holidays.*

Lindiwe Sibisi successfully defended her Plan B Project Masters Degree: *Extended Family Orphan Policy in Swaziland, South Africa.*

Annie Ly Toeung successfully defended her master’s thesis: *Employment-seeking Experiences of Refugees in the Context of Welfare Policy: Employment Counselor Perspectives on Stressors, Resources and Adaptation.*

Jessie Everts Tripoli passed the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy State Examination.

Brian Willoughby passed his Preliminary Oral Examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Make a difference

Your gift is an investment in our collaborative learning community and your support will help us keep our community vital. With your donation we can continue to educate and support families, train students of all disciplines, and reach out to connect with and train professionals in your community.

Together, we can make a difference.

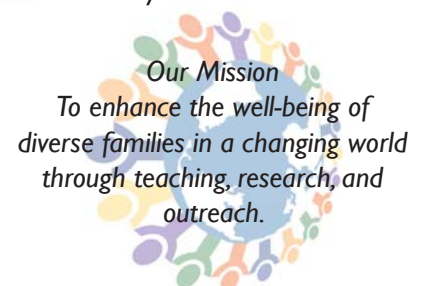
You may make a gift to the Department of Family Social Science through the University of Minnesota Foundation. You may choose to designate your gift to any of the funds below:

- Friends of the Family Assistantship (3911)
- Shirley Zimmerman Fund (5487)
- David Olson Fellowship (5816)
- FSoS Strategic Initiative (2748)
- Jan Hogan Fellowship (5734)
- Family Caregiving Program (5995)
- Neubeck Scholarship Fund (2191)
- Wayne Caron Memorial Fund (1938)
- Ott International Student Fellowship (1883)
- David H. and Karen Olson Marriage and Family Fellowship (1920)
- Family Stress and Resilience Endowment (7645)

You may also choose to memorialize a loved one by donating in their name. Visit www.foundation.umn.edu or call 612-626-8560 or 1-800-775-2187 for more information.

Thank you,

Brian McCulloch
Family Social Science



FSoS Senior Portfolio Review Day

Wednesday, May 7th at 12:00 p.m.
274 McNeal Hall

Food and beverages will be provided.

Capstone Presentation

Wednesday, May 7th at 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
274 McNeal Hall

Portfolio review will be followed by Capstone Presentation by FSoS Senior Honors student Meredith Neumann "Marte Meo: An Innovative Approach to Parent-Child Interaction"

Cake Day

Celebrate the completion of the Spring 2008 Semester

Thursday May 8th
10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m.
290 McNeal Hall

Best-selling author Nuruddin Farah discusses his new book *Knots*

Thursday May 8th at 7 p.m.

Best-selling and award-winning author Nuruddin Farah will discuss his new book *Knots* at the University of Minnesota Bookstore.

Farah delivers the unforgettable portrait of a woman searching for her identity in a land where women are under constant threat of violence and rape as Cambara, a Somali-Canadian, returns to her home land of Mogadiscio. Here she faces the challenge of being a stranger in a foreign land as she wrestles with the repressive mores and intolerances--including the wearing of the veil that she views as an assault to her dignity and a major inconvenience. Yet Cambara soon discovers her new identity as a veil-wearer provides her with anonymity in a city where standing out invites violence. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, www.bookstore.umn.edu/genref/authors.html.

Great Conversations 2008: Defending Human Rights

Tuesday May 13th at 7:30 p.m.
Ted Mann Concert Hall

Kerry Kennedy and Barbara Frey discuss "Defending Human Rights." Experience firsthand the fearless actions and irrepressible ideas of legendary individuals who challenge conventional thinking, expose unconstitutional activities, and resist repressive regimes. Celebrate your freedom of speech. Participate in a lively discussion and come away inspired by the courage and commitment of individuals who change the world. For more information: <http://www.cce.umn.edu/conversations>

FSoS Commencement Open House

Wednesday May 14th
McNeal Hall
274 McNeal
3 - 4:30 p.m.



Spring 2008 College of Education and Human Development Commencement

Wednesday May 14th
Northrop Memorial Auditorium
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Keynote speaker is Elizabeth "Libba" Pinchot
<http://cehd.umn.edu/students/Commence.html>

National Conclave for/Phi Upsilon Omicron/National Honor Society

September 25-28th, 2008

The National Conclave for Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society (Phi U) was founded by the University of Minnesota in 1909; Family Social Science was the Alpha Chapter. They are busy planning their national conference on

September 25-28, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport in Minneapolis. FSoS faculty, including **Pauline Boss**, will present. Jan Hogan is one of the co-chairs of the overall planning committee.

Phi U is an honor society whose members are from three UM colleges - CEHD, CFANS, and CDeS. The current collegiate chapter includes several FSoS students: president - **Nikki Buckholz** (undergraduate), vice-president - **Pa Nhia Yang** (graduate student), and initiation co-chairs - **Jaerim Lee** and **Dorothy Rombo** (graduate students). Numerous alumni from Family Social Science and the former College of Human Ecology are involved in the alumni chapter. **Catherine Solheim** serves as one of the collegiate advisers. **Jaerim Lee** and **Pa Nhia Yang** received scholarships from the alumni chapter this year.

American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy 66th AAMFT Annual Conference

October 30th - November 2nd, 2008
Ethical Legal Challenges in Contemporary Family Therapy
Memphis Convention Center
Memphis, TN

National Council on Family Relations 70th NCFR Annual Conference

November 5-8th, 2008
Lenses on Family
Peabody Hotel - Little Rock, AR

CEHD Honors and Awards Recipients for 2008

Educational Leadership Award - Hal Grotevant

Hal's colleagues at the national level comment that his ground breaking work on family relationships during adolescence was "instrumental in revolutionizing how we view adolescents' relationships with parents."

Multicultural Recognition Award - Catherine Solheim

Cathy personifies a multicultural perspective in the deepest and broadest sense through her mentoring and leadership with students, her community-based engagement research, her grasp of immigrant and refugee family issues, her strong record of scholarship for international students, and her impressive record of institutional and community service.

New Career Excellence - Abigail Gewirtz

Abigail's intervention research is conducted with and within the community, and is both cutting edge and relevant for families and children. She embodies the College of Education and Human Development's M3 mission and her collaborative work bridges successfully across multiple units in the College.



L to R: Abi Gewirtz, Sara Lassig, Cynthia Meyer, Jean Bauer, Jan McCulloch, Dean Bailey, Hal Grotevant, Cathy Solheim

Outstanding Student - Sara Lassig

Sara, Ph.D. student, provides leadership within her cohort, served on departmental and national committees dedicated to family relations, and is chairing a 2009 conference entitled, "The Intersection of Families, Health, and Healthcare."

Excellence in Academic Advising - Jean Bauer

Jean stood apart from a strong set of nominees because of the scope and depth of her advising activities. The Committee noted her ability to consistently extend her "personal touch" beyond her own circle of advisees; and, as Director

of Graduate Studies, the substantial impact she has made in the recruitment and professional socialization of international and underrepresented students.

Distinguished Teaching - Cynthia Meyer

Cynthia's nomination materials reflected her consistently outstanding teaching evaluations for the past 15 years, the fact that she teaches an unusually broad range of courses, and her uncommon availability to students. Above and beyond this her pioneering national role in developing a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Family course merited special distinction.

There's **NO** stopping us!



April 24 CEHD recognition event at Coffman Union