



# Interactions

newsletter for the Department of Family Social Science

## Student Group Starts Anew

Camaraderie, volunteering, and a sense of community are all values that many Family Social Science undergrads have in common. This year two seniors have taken it upon themselves to breathe new life into an organization built on these very ideas. With new leadership and growing participation, the Family Social Science Undergraduate Roundtable has re-emerged as the premiere student group for FSoS undergrads.

### The Past

When Kristin Klecker and Heidi Schewe joined the Roundtable group as juniors in 2003, they were two of only five members. However, both of them saw potential in this type of student society. Although it was such a small group, the senior leadership was helpful in finding out about internships, career options, various FSoS courses and different professors.



*Left: FSoS Roundtable co-presidents Kristin Klecker (L) and Heidi Schewe (R). Below: Roundtable members hold their first meeting of the semester in September.*

Both juniors saw the potential in this type of organization and decided to become more involved.

“I found the three seniors to be very helpful as mentors,” said Heidi Schewe, co-president of the group. “As publicity chair [her junior year] I was able to begin taking some responsibility within the group.”

Both Kristin and Heidi recognized there were probably other students who could benefit from this type of group. From there they decided to take on the challenge of expanding the Roundtable.

### The Present

This year, the Roundtable has really taken off. The group has already held several monthly meetings with additional attendees at each meeting. In November the group held its first social event—a movie showing and game night at Coffman Union. As part of the University-sponsored student group showcase program, the Roundtable was able to raise a small amount of money to be used for future meetings. It’s a starting point that both



presidents really feel they can build on.

Other events are already scheduled. This holiday season members from the Roundtable will be serving food at a homeless shelter in downtown Minneapolis. During finals week, the group is also sponsoring a study session. Building on the success of similar sessions in the past, this year Roundtable members want to create a friendly environment for students to come in during finals week, relax, study, enjoy a few snacks and socialize with other students.

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## Roundtable (con't)

Kristine Piescher, undergraduate advisor, sees the Roundtable as a great way for students to become involved. "I think that the biggest benefit of the Roundtable is its focus on creating a student identity within our department. Many undergraduates at the university feel a bit lost because of the size of our institution. The Roundtable is a way for students to feel more connected to their program and to each other. This is a benefit to the department and students alike."

## The Future

Future plans include finding the means to create different positions and committees within the Roundtable in order to tackle new events and experiences for students. The group now feels drawing in more students and creating additional fundraising opportunities is the way to achieve their goals in the short term.

While the Roundtable group is still trying to build on its number of members, funds, and ideas, optimism is high among its co-presidents. "I hope the coming semesters allow for more students to become involved," said co-president Kristin Klecker. "More students involved will mean greater volunteer opportunities and more ability to gain stronger relationships with others in the major."

Added Schewe: "The members who have contributed in meetings have great ideas about where to take our group. A couple of people have already shown a commitment to take over some of the leadership duties. As long as the Roundtable has dedicated leaders and members, they will continue to expand."

Kristine Piescher knows that a strong student organization can boost the program within the department by making students more active in class. "I think that this group will form a strong collaboration over the next few years that will enhance undergraduate education within the department. That momentum and the popularity of this group will keep growing as more students begin to realize how important the Roundtable really is for them."

## From the Department Head...

Greetings and my best wishes as we near the end of 2004 and begin 2005 . . .



*Dr. Jan McCulloch*

Exciting things continue to occur here in Family Social Science. In this greeting, I will focus attention on three – the

launch of our realigned Undergraduate Curriculum, the realignment of our Graduate Curriculum, and the launch of our new FSoS Web Site. The work needed to bring these as well as other important departmental projects to fruition involves faculty, staff, and many of our students. I wish to express my appreciation to everyone who worked to make these significant improvements a reality.

## Realignment of Family Social Science Undergraduate Curriculum

In 2002-2003, FSoS began the work of realigning the Undergraduate Curriculum. After much discussion and planning, the realignment was submitted for approval and we were able to integrate the curriculum into our 2004-2005 scheduling.

Several issues were considered as the department began its discussion of

realignment. These included review of curriculum in light of semester conversion, development of departmental themes (Families and Mental Health, Families and Diversity, Families and Economic Well-Being, and Family Diversity), adoption of the National Council on Family Relations' Certification for Family Life Education (CFLE), the interface of our undergraduate and graduate course offerings, increases in FSoS's undergraduate enrollment and interest in our course offerings, and enrichment of the undergraduate experience during upper level courses. The realigned curriculum includes introductory courses, skill and foundation courses, thematic courses, and advanced and applied skill courses.

We encourage you to view the realigned FSoS undergraduate curriculum on our web site (<http://fsos.che.umn.edu>).

## Family Social Science Graduate Education Task Force

Last year, as one of my first priorities, I appointed a task force to provide recommendations to the faculty regarding our graduate curriculum. The task force consisted of Drs. Jean Bauer, Bill Doherty, Dan Detzner, Kathy Rettig, William Turner, Virginia Zuiker, and two graduate students, Carolyn Bird and Christina Robert. What a terrific job they did! By the end of the academic year, we had a realigned curriculum that was ready to move through university channels for approval. This realigned curriculum was recently approved by the Board of Regents and will be integrated into our scheduling in Fall, 2005.

**INTERACTIONS** is published twice a year 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 comments and news items, which you can send to Chris Liakos, Department of Family Social Science, 290 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, or call 612/625-1900, fax to 612/625-4227, or email at [cliakos@che.umn.edu](mailto:cliakos@che.umn.edu)

B. Jan McCulloch, Department Head  
Chris Liakos, Coordinator, Editor, and Layout

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The Task Force was changed to include specific factors including:

- Diversification
  - Inclusiveness of diverse family structures, ethnicities, and socio-economic levels in course content.
  - Variation of instructional delivery methods.
  - Strong program emphasis for all students in the graduate program.
- Coordination
  - Inclusion of FSoS 8106, Economic Perspectives on the Family, to provide continued support for the new University-wide Population Studies Minor
  - Participation in the planning and implementing of the University-wide Family Policy Minor
  - Inclusion of current courses in the Gerontology minor
- Expectation
  - Adherence to College of Human Ecology policy on workload policy for number of students to be enrolled in each course offering.

Briefly, the updating of the Family Social Science Curriculum has provided us with the opportunity to evaluate course content across the curriculum. A significant outcome of this curriculum realignment has been the equalization of emphases or specializations at the Ph.D. level. Doctoral students will now have either a family science or marriage and family therapy emphasis.

### New Family Social Science Web Site

The department is proud to invite you to visit our newly updated web site (<http://fsos.che.umn.edu>). Faculty and staff have worked very hard over the summer and fall to integrate FSoS information into a new web site that is consistent with the U, CHE, and other departments/schools in the college.

We recognize how important our Web communication is – it provides us with links to our current students, alums, and friends as well as helps make us known to future students and friends. Some of the new features on the site include streaming video, quotes about families, and updated information about research, education, and outreach.

We hope you will take a few minutes to “cruise” the web site. If you have suggestions or ideas, please give us your feedback!

On behalf of Family Social Science, I wish you a safe and peaceful season and a wonderful New Year!

B. Jan McCulloch,  
Department Head

### Undergrad Program Now CFLE Certified

The Family Social Science undergraduate program has met the Standards and Criteria required for the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation from the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). They become one of only three collegiate programs in Minnesota with a CFLE designation and the only one in the Twin Cities community.



Dr. William Goodman

The designation now means that FSoS graduates will qualify to complete an abbreviated CFLE application process, saving them both time and money. The CFLE program recognizes the inclusion of relevant coursework in the FSoS curriculum corresponding to the ten family life substance areas as identified by NCFR.

These ten areas include:

- Families and Society
- Internal Dynamics of Families
- Human Growth and Development

- Human Sexuality
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Family Resource Management
- Parent Education
- Family Law and Public Policy
- Ethics
- Family Life Educations Methodology

Undergraduate Program Chair William Goodman identifies how the CFLE designation reflects the department’s support of the nationally agreed upon curriculum for family science undergrads: “The future of our undergraduate program is now set on a specific, credible, academic course that is the inclusion of courses and content that amplify the ten substance areas of study as defined by NCFR.”

“Simply stated: students that select this curriculum option will graduate with skills and knowledge which may be utilized in careers centered on family life education.”

***“This validation is and will continue to be a source of pride.”***

***-Dr. William Goodman***

NCFR is a member-funded, non-partisan educational and professional organization, with over 50 years of service to family professionals. It publishes the *Journal of Marriage and Family* and *Family Relations Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*, as well as countless other family research and education resources.

“Undergraduate students will now graduate with a national recognition of their education and experience,” said Dr. Goodman. “This validation is and will continue to be a source of pride.”



## Meet the New FSoS Graduate Students!



**Renee Beckwith** graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's degree in Marriage, Family and Human Development in 1999, and

a Master's degree in the same field in 2003. As an undergraduate, she was actively involved in extension services writing a manual for teaching principles of kindness in families, and was concurrently involved in teaching classes at the Utah State penitentiary. As a graduate student, and then as part-time faculty at Brigham Young University, Renee also taught two undergraduate courses for three semesters: Work and Relationships in the Home and Parenting and Child Guidance. Renee's primary research interests are with mothering, particularly maternal ambivalence. She is currently working on research in family moral reasoning or "micro-morality." In the future, she hopes to be involved as a professor, actively teaching and doing research in a university setting, as well as integrating her work and research with family policy.



**Clinton Gudmunson** is originally from Washington State. He most recently lived in Utah where he received his

Master's degree in Marriage, Family and Human Development from Brigham Young University. Academic interests include themes related to the intersection between family relations, work, & financial issues, philosophical assumptions and implications of theory, and quantitative methods and analysis.

**Mary Kelleher** is a doctoral student in the Marriage and Family Therapy track. Her area of interest is collaborative family



health care. She has a B.S. in Biochemistry from Western Washington University, a M.S. in Marriage & Family Therapy from Seattle

Pacific University, and has completed an intensive internship in Mental Health with the University of Washington Department of Family Medicine.



**Faten Khoury** is a doctoral student in the Marriage and Family Therapy program. She was born and raised in Israel. She migrated to the United State in

2001. Faten received her B.A. in Educational Counseling, Sociology and Anthropology in 1992 at Haifa University, Israel. In addition, she received her M.S. in Educational Psychology at Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts. Faten received a Post-M.A. in Family Psychology at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Professional Psychology. Her areas of interest include cross-culture family therapy, culturally sensitive and effective clinical interventions, dementia care, and helping families deal with Alzheimer's and chronic illness.



**Jaerim Lee** is a Ph.D. student from South Korea. She received her Master's Degree in Child Development and Family Studies at Seoul National

University and has completed doctoral coursework there as well. Jaerim has published seven Korean journal articles focusing on low-income female-headed families and family life education program development. She has taught undergraduate family studies classes at three different universities in the metropolitan Seoul area. Her current research interests include family policy, families in poverty, and qualitative research methodology.



**Paul Orieny** was born in Kenya and migrated to the United States in 1999. He received a Bachelor's degree in education at Kenyatta

University in 1990 after which he worked as a high school teacher for 10 years. He then went on to complete a Master's degree in Counseling and Psychotherapy from Adler Graduate School and is currently a Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist. He has worked with low-income families at Head Start and Freeport West and with minority Junior High Students at Family and Children's Service. His research interests are with recent immigrant families' issues and integration of complementary therapies and healing practices with Marriage and Family Therapy.



**Gregg Schacher** is from Milwaukee, WI and has been living in Minnesota since traveling with a theater company in 1993. He earned

his Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Bethel Seminary where his clinical experience involved work with couples and individuals. His volunteer work has given him experience with diverse groups including at-risk suburban youth and diverse single mothers. Gregg's professional and research interests include anxiety disorders, physical and sexual trauma experience, narcissistic couples and virtue development.



**Kristin Schneider** was born in Minnesota, but has also lived in Texas and Washington State. She recently received

her Bachelor's degree in Family Social

Science at the University of Minnesota. She is now pursuing her Master's and PhD. Kristin's research interests include family policy, homelessness, low-income housing, domestic violence, sexual assault, and substance abuse.



**Holli Trombley** graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 1997 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and from the University of

Wisconsin-Stout in 2000 with her Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. She has worked in a variety of jobs including in-home family therapy, advocacy in domestic violence, and being an in-office clinician. She currently has her own private practice in Bloomington as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Holli's interests include stepfamily issues, trauma and violence in families, and resiliency.



**Brian Willoughby** is originally from Eau Claire, WI. He received a BS in Psychology with a minor in Marriage, Family

and Human Development from Brigham Young University in Utah. Brian worked briefly as a youth mentor for at-risk youth at a boarding school in Utah as well as serving as an autism therapist for various families in the Salt Lake Valley. He has been accepted into the doctoral program and is currently working on his Masters. Brian's current research foci are in the areas of marital and premarital education, marital and relationship competency and developing a virtue-based model of marital satisfaction.

**Pa Nhia Yang** was born in Laos and immigrated with her family to the U.S. in 1985. Since then she has lived in Sheboygan, WI. She received a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies



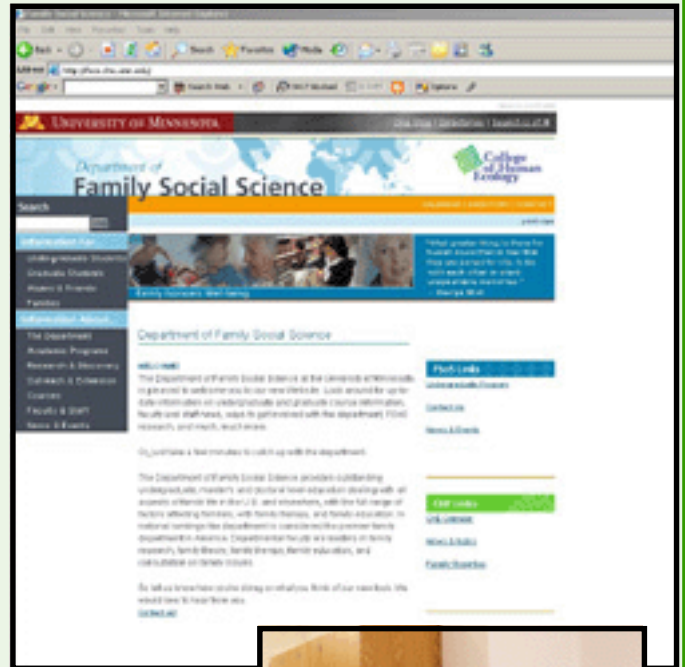
from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is now pursuing her Masters and PhD in FSoS. Her current research interests are

intergenerational family dynamics, immigrant family strengths, parent-adolescent relationships and ethnic identity.



## FSoS Live!

On October 20th, the department unveiled its new Web site. The effort was part of College-wide enhancement of its Web presence. Countless hours went into planning, designing, and implementing the new site. The result is an easier to use and easier to maintain Web site that will benefit students, faculty, staff, and anyone else looking for information on the department.



The new Web page—still found at <http://fsos.che.umn.edu>—offers something new for everyone:

**Prospective students** can find all the forms needed for application to the grad programs.

**Faculty** can now update their personal pages much more efficiently.

**Visitors** can learn more about the department and family science research by viewing streaming video interviews with all our faculty.

The new pages are filled with quicker access to **news stories, alumni involvement opportunities, the FSoS calendar, past issues of Interactions, and much much more.**

Check back often to see what's new in Family Social Science.



Top: A screen shot of the new Website.

Above: Jan McCulloch tours the new site with grad students Heather Haberman and Johnben Loy. The department held an open house on October 28th to celebrate the new website and the grand opening of the Student Computing Center located in 376 McNeal.



## Alumni Profile

For many undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota, choosing the right major is often times an impossible feat. However when a student finds the perfect fit, they know it instantly. Such



Jessica Stripsky

was the case for Family Social Science graduate Jessica Stripsky. Jessica graduated in May 2004 with a minor in German Studies. She immediately found ways to put her FSoS experience to use.

Like many others just starting out, Jessica began her collegiate experience with several possible programs in mind. But soon after taking FSoS 1101, she was a part of Family Social Science and the College of Human Ecology. While in school, Jessica began an internship with Children's Home Society & Family Services. After graduation, she stayed on full-time to help run their volunteering programs.

Jessica shares her thoughts: "My experience in FSoS was a very good one. When students asked me about my major or about the college I was in, I would talk their ears off about how it was the right fit for me. Throughout my time at the U of M as an FSoS major, I felt like I fit in and that the professors and advisors cared about my success in the program. I didn't feel that as much before I became part of the

department. One telltale sign that I had found the right major is that all of my grades spiked up when I started my major classes. Just by looking at my grades alone, it was apparent that I was working harder and was more interested in the content of the classes I was taking."

As a Volunteer Coordinator at Children's Home Society & Family Services, Jessica puts her knowledge to work in a variety of ways. "Studying family science definitely prepared me for the diversity of the people I work with on a day-to-day basis. I understand the hardships that the single mothers are going through when they are interested in being a part of our Support-A-Family project, and so on." Jessica said. "A piece of each of my FSoS classes has been used in my job at some point. I think that I have a better understanding of where people are coming from in general because of the tools I was given in the department."

***Studying family science definitely prepared me for the diversity of the people I work with on a day to day basis.***

***-Jessica Stripsky  
FSoS Alum***

As for the future, Jessica plans on switching gears and moving to the field of medicine. She is currently in paramedic school and she would like to work in osteopathic medicine, preferably in a family practice clinic. "My dream job would incorporate utilizing my FSoS experiences and my medical knowledge together to make a more healthy person, mind and body."

## News & Notes

### Student News

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, undergrad **Katherine Hardgrove** presented her Honors Capstone Project titled *Gay and Lesbian Parents Who Choose Co-Parent Adoption: Legal and Family Issues*.

At the Gerontological Society of America Conference in November, **Kara Erolin**, **Sara Lassig**, and **Jan McCulloch**, presented *Depression and Older Farmers: Investigation of the CES-D and Older Rural Women's Medical Decision-Making: Vignettes as Method*. Sara Lassig also presented *Relationships as Core: A Case Study in Assisted Living in Memory Care*.

**Karin Lindstrom Bremer** presented her work titled *Spouses and adult daughters: A comparison of perceptions of dementia care giving* at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Washington, DC. She also presented "Did you have fun?" and "Did you win?" *A Discussion of Theory and Real Life Variations of Families with Children Competing in Youth Sport* at the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology in Minneapolis. At the 19th annual Primary Care Research Methods & Statistics Conference in San Antonio, TX, Karin also presented a paper entitled *A Factor Analytic Strategy to Create a Comprehensive Measure of Distress for Alzheimer's Caregivers*.

Other NCFR Conference presentations and discussions include: **Renee Beckwith** presented *A Theory of Maternal Ambivalence: An Irreconcilable Tension in Conflicting Desires*; **Kristine Piescher** and **Jean Bauer**: *Economic & Social Factors of Depression for Rural, Low-Income Mothers*; **Lynn Von Korff** with **Hal Grotevant**: *Openness Arrangements and Psychological Adjustment in Adolescent Adoptees*; **Kevin Green**, **Szu-Yi Peng**, and **Jodi Dworkin**: *Teenagers Learning to Make Decisions About Risk Behaviors: A Family Affair*; **Szu-Yi Peng** and **Jodi Dworkin**: *Understanding Experimentation and Risk-Taking From the Perspective of Youth*; **Johnben Loy** and **Sharon Danes**: *Relationship Conflict Appraisal*:

## *Differences Between Farm and Urban Couples.*

At the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT) conference in November, **Szu-Yi Peng** presented her work entitled *International Students Learning Experiences in COAMFTE Accredited Programs.*

## Alumni News

FSoS Alums Kristen Holm (Ph.D. '04), Katy Daniels (Ph.D., '04) and Jerica Berge (Ph.D., '04) have all recently become Approved Supervisors through the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

## Faculty News

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Pauline Boss** and U.S. Sen. **Hillary Rodham Clinton** were honored at a gala in New York City for their work in helping the city heal after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks. The College of Human Ecology co-hosted a fundraiser with two New York labor unions to raise money to establish the Endowed Chair in Family Stress and Resilience in CHE. The chair will provide opportunities for discovering knowledge and developing resources for healing families and communities throughout the world. Comedian and radio host Al Franken emceed the event. For more information on this initiative, contact Pamela Lowe in the College of Human Ecology office at 612-624-5092.

Professor **Paul Rosenblatt** and graduate student **Beverly Wallace** have signed a contract with Brunner-Routledge to publish their book titled *African-American Grief.*

**Sharon Danes** and **Johnben Loy** presented a poster entitled *Business Owner's Assessment of Spousal Support for Start-up Businesses* at the annual conference of the Family Firm Institute in Cambridge, MA in October.

At a press conference held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Council on Family Relations announced a new \$900K grant to create a healthy

marriage resource center. **Bill Doherty** was on hand to outline his role in developing the center. HHS Assistant Secretary Wade Horn was there to present a check on behalf of President Bush and Secretary Tommy Thompson to NCFR President Michael Benjamin and Dr. Doherty.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, **Bill Doherty** spoke at the "International Week of the Family" conference in Singapore.

**Jodi Dworkin** led discussions at NCFR entitled *Reaching Parents of Teenagers and Young Adults: Challenges and Opportunities* and *Capturing the Complexity of Adolescents' Experiences: A Consideration of Race and Ethnicity.*

**Family Social Science** has established an Advisory Board. On November 12th, the FSoS Advisory Board held its first meeting. During this initial meeting, members of the board were presented with an overview of the department and issues relevant to the department's future were introduced. The board will work with FSoS to identify and reach development, public relation, and educational / professional skill interface goals. The group will meet three times a year. This year, they will meet again on February 25th and May 6th. Our Advisory Board members will be highlighted in the next issue of *Interactions.*



**Marlene Stum** participated in the Financial Security in Later Life Cooperative Extension National Initiative Management Team, a group that won the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education "Outstanding Educational Program" award at the AFCPE national conference in November. At the conference, Dr. Stum also presented her work titled *Financing Long Term Care: A New On-Line Resource Center.*

## *Make a gift...*

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)*

*Ambiguous Loss Project (5937)*

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

Thank you,  
Family Social Science



*Mission: To enhance family functioning in diverse settings through discovery, teaching, and outreach. We contribute to an understanding of families in a changing world that leads to development of strong families for future generations.*