

MCFR

Minnesota Council on Family Relations

Family Forum

FALL 2013

Family Forum is the newsletter of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations, a state affiliate of the National Council on Family Relations



The Minnesota Council on Family Relations strengthens all families by educating and supporting family professionals and promoting connections among those involved in research, policy and practice.

Annual Elections Issue!

Please review the following MCFR Slate of Board nominees, then vote online or print your ballot (page 4) and fax it to 651-407-1754 by November 15.

President-Elect: Gail Peavey

Current and Previous Professional Positions and Experiences For the last sixteen years, I have been employed with University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension as a Family Living Agent and Co-Department Head for the Polk County Extension Office in Balsam Lake, WI. My career as an extension agent has provided me numerous trainings and opportunities to enhance family relationships, promote positive parenting and co-parenting strategies, and help families meet future financial needs while addressing the basics of spending, saving, and housing issues. Prior to my career with UW Extension, I worked for eight years as a parent educator in the Marshall, MN ECFE program.

Education I received my undergraduate degree in Business Education and taught business at Marshall High School for four years prior to choosing one of the most important careers - that being a wife and mother. When our youngest was three years old, I started part-time as a parent educator for ECFE and began the non-traditional educational journey of graduate school where I earned (after eight years) my Masters of Science in Child and Families Studies

Continued on page 3

Friday, December 6, 2013 - MCFR Annual Conference
"Promoting Civility ..."

Como Park Visitor Center, Rainforest Auditorium, St Paul, MN

Minnesota Council on Family Relations

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Alisha Hardman..... 612-616-6906

Lisa Krause..... 763-438-1093

Raelene Ostberg..... 507-645-2498

Renee Sawyer..... 763-572-0542

Family Forum Editor:

Ron Pitzer..... 612-331-1970

Family Forum Managing Editor:

Linda Vukelich..... 651-278-4241

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From the President Mary Maher

Dear Members

Change is in the air along with the dancing leaves of autumn.

MCFR has had an unusually busy summer. First of all, be sure to see the articles on the upcoming **12/6 conference**. Please share these with colleagues and register soon to guarantee access to a wealth of information and a day of collegial discussion on **Promoting Civility** within families and between families, professionals and beyond. Many thanks to Ted Bowman and committee for all their planning.

The Nominating committee has recruited a group of varied and talented family professionals and students to serve on the Board. Enjoy reading their enclosed bios and PLEASE vote soon!

The Ethics committee continues negotiation with NCFR to create a collaborative agreement on the future use and development of Ethical Thinking and Practice materials, trainings and projects. This landmark agreement may be signed by the time this edition of Family Forum is out.

The Executive committee is working to ensure a smooth transition of MCFR's administrative and financial services from the capable and talented Linda Vukelich. Linda is leaving us at the end of December after 15 years of professional and dedicated partnership. Our consolation is that we have contracted with Tammy Dunrud to help us through this fall's transition and beyond. Learn more about this important change in a separate article.

I hope to see some of you in San Antonio at the NCFR conference 11/6-9. It would be wonderful to celebrate Betty Cooke's Meritorious Service Award together. Anyone for a Minnesotans Dinner Out?

Finally, the Board is looking forward to a **retreat on 11/15** to help us re-imagine MCFR and what we can do to support our mission. Bob Kazmierski of the UW-Extension Service will facilitate this day.

Yes, change is in the air. And along with dancing leaves come rake blistered hands and planning for Thanksgiving. I hope the work and rewards of the season find your family well. We welcomed our first grandchild at the end of August. Lydia Rose makes autumn more beautiful than ever! I am thankful for her life and for the work all of you do to make this world a better place for families.

Best wishes, Mary Maher

*"Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance."*

— Yoko Ono

from St Cloud State University with a license in Early Childhood and Parent Education.

MCFR/NCFR Participation I feel so privileged to continue my service on the MCFR Board in the position of president-elect. This past year as secretary I learned so much about the organization and our committed colleagues who are very dedicated family professionals. I look forward to the continued networking and professional knowledge and experiences as we work collaboratively to help fulfill the mission of MCFR.

Personal and Community One of my favorite joys in life is spending time with our grandchildren. Over the last four years I had weekly dates with my grandsons at Burnsville ECFE. My involvement with the church community is an important part of my life as I serve as Chair of Stillwater First United Methodist Mission Committee and mentor a youth confirmand. I also enjoy traveling and experiencing different cultures and foods as well as relaxing at our cabin on a small Wisconsin lake.

Secretary: Marilyn Sharpe

Current and Previous Professional Positions and Experiences I have been the principal of Marilyn Sharpe Ministries for four years, an independent ministry dedicated to helping congregations partner with and equip households to nurture faith in all the generations, every day, everywhere. I coach, consult, mentor and train congregational staff and volunteers to do family ministry. I also teach parents, teachers, and families how to do this in every venue. For three years, I have worked as a parent educator with an inner-city program for those in recovery from alcohol and addiction. I am adjunct faculty at Concordia University, St. Paul and Luther Seminary. For nine years, I have written a monthly parenting column for the Metro Lutheran and a series on youth and family ministry for The Clergy Journal. I published my first book, *For Heaven's Sake! Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully*, in 2010.

Prior to this, I worked for ten years for The Youth & Family Institute and for 13 years for Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church as their Director of Confirmation, where, as a volunteer, I have taught parenting classes and run a weekly, year around parent support group for 35 years. As a volunteer, I have taught parenting at an inner-city faith-based school and taught both gifted education classes for elementary students and a yearly sexuality series for

parents of elementary kids in Edina. Prior to that, I taught high school English in Baltimore, MD.

Education I received my BA from Wellesley College, with an English major and Art History Minor, and an MA in Secondary English Education from Harvard University. Teaching high school English and starting our family, I discovered that I take extraordinary joy in both learning and teaching, and continued as a lifelong learner to read, attend conferences, and learn from speakers on child development, parenting, and family dynamics. Having taught parenting and run a parent support group for nine years, I was "grandmother-ed" in as a CFLE in 1987. I have continued my passion for building strong, resilient, faithful families by reading, listening, observing, and teaching. Oh, yes, my most powerful incentive to learn has been to teach and write on topics central to this field!

MCFR/NCFR Participation I have been a member of both NCFR and MCFR since 1987. I have regularly attended MCFR conferences and occasionally attended NCFR conferences. I have read the publications, incorporating new findings in the materials that I teach to parents, students, and church professionals.

Personal and Community As a wife, parent, and grandparent, I know firsthand the joys and sorrows, the triumphs and challenges of being a family. I am committed to helping parents celebrate their strengths, give and receive support, and glean wisdom from other parents, as well as the best resources in our field. In 2011, I was honored by KARE 11 as one of the Eleven Who Care for my volunteer work at Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Trinity First Lutheran School, and the Edina Public Schools. I love my life!

Co-Chair for Student Section: Tammi Pollingo

Current and Previous Professional Positions and Experiences and Education I am currently an undergraduate student at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. I completed high school at Delano Senior High School in Delano, Minnesota where I had my first psychology class. After high school I knew I wanted to pursue a career in the helping professions and felt as though St. Thomas would be a fantastic place for me to begin that search. I decided to double major in Psychology and Family Studies and I will be graduating in December of this year. After graduation, I plan to continue my studies

Continued on page 4

and will be attending graduate school to attain an Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology. I have been active on the St. Thomas campus in helping promote our newly approved Family Studies Major by simply sharing my experiences with other students. I love talking about how I came to Family Studies and how wonderful our professors are. It's truly fantastic to be able to help promote something that is so important.

MCFR/NCFR Participation The main way that I have interacted with MCFR/NCFR has been through the journals they support and help publish. As a student we are constantly looking for updated research and I have found the journals supported by this organization to be helpful. While I know I have little experience in professional organizations, I know I am not alone. The majority of undergraduate students in the Family Studies and Family Science fields have little to no knowledge of organizations such as the MCFR/NCFR despite the fact that we are aware that professional experience is extremely beneficial. That being said, one of the main reasons that I would be honored to serve on the MCFR board is because I feel that promoting this organization in the undergraduate "world" would be extremely helpful. As an undergraduate myself, I know how difficult it can be to get experiences such as this, and I would love to be able to talk to students about how easy it is to become involved. Working with this organization would not only help me to grow as an individual, but it would also provide other students with opportunities that they are currently lacking.

Personal and Community I have always been interested in helping other people and I currently work at a high school in St. Paul tutoring students. I absolutely love working with students and have always had a passion for children. I am blessed to be an aunt. I have six nieces and two nephews and absolutely love spending time with them. Reading and cooking are two of my favorite hobbies, and I love going on nature walks.

Co-Chair for Student Section: Susie Wolter

Current and Previous Professional Positions and Experiences and Education I am currently a junior at the University of St. Thomas double majoring in Psychology and Family Studies. My career goal is to be a certified Child Life Specialist. Currently I am starting my second year at the Child Development Center at the University of St. Thomas and I am serving as an interim infant

classroom teacher until a new hire is made. I am also an admissions tour guide for the University. Previously I have been a public library clerk and a program assistant for the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

MCFR/NCFR Participation I do not have any MCFR or NCFR experience yet, but I am looking forward to working with and learning from all of you. I am working on starting a Family Studies Club for the University of St. Thomas and connecting with our students here. Hopefully I can expand that through MCFR to meeting family studies students from across the state.

Personal and Community This November will mark the beginning of my third year volunteering at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota on the St. Paul campus. Volunteering is a huge passion of mine, and in addition to hospital volunteering, I have volunteered teaching a first grade Sunday school class and served as a tutor-mentor in the St. Paul Schools. In my free time I love to hang out with my roommates and my cat, Figaro, watch movies, and explore the Twin Cities.

Members-At-Large:

Maud Greenhoe

Current and Previous Professional Positions and Experience I have had several positions in the past 25 years. I taught kindergarten for two years in Yuma, AZ and owned and operated Bright Beginnings Inc. in Yuma for 18 years. In 2000 I moved with my family to Roseau, MN and became a substitute teacher in the Roseau, Warroad, and Badger school districts. In 2007 I took the position of School Age Child Care director, a before and after school program in the Roseau school district, continuing to be a substitute for Roseau in the special education classes and the high school. I also worked for Roseau County as their Parents Forever facilitator.

Education I received my undergraduate degree in early childhood/elementary education K-6 from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. I did my student teaching in Bilbao, Spain. I received my MA in Family Life Education from Concordia University in 2012 and am finishing up my Master's in special education/EBD with an autism certification online and am finishing up a Master's in drug addiction/mental health counseling from Hazelden Graduate School. I will complete all programs in April 2014.

Continued on page 5

MCFR/NCFR Participation I hope to work in the areas that need my experience and my help. I have been a member of NCFR for over a year. The journals have been an excellent source of continuing my research on families. I hope to continue my ongoing learning on the family process. I am a new member of MCFR and hope to make a difference.

Personal and Community Happiness comes to me through my four dogs, my three amazing 20-something children, and trying to find the best in each day. My husband passed away from advanced dementia in August 2012, so I have made it my quest to use my brain and appreciate each day. I have lived in the community of Golden Valley for a year. It has been a good move. My children live nearby and I enjoy the opportunities city life provides.

Karen Ihnen

Current and Previous Professional Positions and Experiences Presently I am a faculty member at St. Cloud State University in their Child and Family Studies Department. At SCSU I teach a variety of methods and development courses, work with student teacher candidates as an Instructor and University Supervisor and am involved in various educational and teacher assessment programs/committees. Throughout my educational career I have taught in a variety of school venues from preschool through higher/adult education, including parent education, which continues to be one of my passions. Prior to my present position I was employed with the University of Minnesota Extension Service for 14 years.

Education I received undergraduate degrees from Bethany Lutheran College and the University of Minnesota in Adult/Parent Education, Family Life, Family and Consumer Science and Middle School Education. During my years in Extension I completed a Master of Education degree in Family Education from the University of Minnesota and Family Education certification from University of Oslo, Norway, with a Specialization in Early Childhood Education.

MCFR/NCFR Participation As an Extension Educator in Family Development, I had the opportunity to be part of numerous MCFR/NCFR projects that continue to impact our families and communities. I thoroughly enjoyed working on all aspects of Positive Parenting and the Minnesota Marriage amendment. I look forward to becoming more involved and having the opportunity to

work as a MCFR Board member-at-large while helping support the positive work MCFR has done and continues to do for families in Minnesota.

Personal and Community My husband Mark and I have a small hobby farm near Foley. We have two amazing children, a wonderful son and daughter-in-law and have just become proud grandparents to an adorable little girl. In my personal time I am honing my grandma skills, enjoy being outdoors, staying active in the community with church and elder care programs and pursue activities that get me back to my farm roots.

Brianna Routh

Current and Previous Professional Positions and Experiences I currently work with University of Minnesota Extension as an Extension Educator with Building Healthy and Strong Families. I am located in the Worthington Regional Office in southwest Minnesota. Worthington is a very diverse community with over 30 percent Hispanic population, a large number of commuters from even more rural locations in southwest Minnesota, and growing number of young families with children. I work at a local level as well as statewide through online education to provide health, nutrition and family relations information to parents and professionals.

Education I completed my Masters in Public Health and became a Registered Dietitian in Fall 2012. Throughout my dietetic internship experience, I got the opportunity to work with a wide variety of families and individuals, from Native Chickasaw families in Oklahoma, to low income individuals attending public and free clinics in Des Moines and the Twin Cities, to mothers attending WIC in Chisago County.

MCFR/NCFR Participation As a part of my position, I am strengthening my background in parent education to complement my previous work and education background and more fully understand the study of family relations. I have begun by joining NCFR and taking some online classes through the University in the Parent Education Certificate Program. I am a relatively new member to NCFR and this will be my first year in MCFR. As I have been exploring the organizations more, attending the NCFR conference last year and encountering professionals who have worked closely with MCFR, I see MCFR as a perfect space for me. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow and expand professional networks as well as continue to gain knowledge and experience in the field of

Continued on page 6

family relations. I also hope that I will be a helpful addition to MCFR and be able to share my expertise and background with others in a mutually beneficial partnership.

Personal and Community I am currently serving as President-Elect for the Southwest Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as well as an adviser for SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program) board for

Nobles, Jackson, and Cottonwood counties. In my free time, I have been exploring southwest Minnesota by attending town festivals, camping at state parks, and trying local cuisine. Additionally, I'm passionate about food, so I love to make it, share it, taste new foods, and, lately, I have been trying my hand at food photography. I am also an aunt, so I enjoy traveling to the Twin Cities, Chicago, and central Iowa to see my niece and nephews.

2013 MCFR Board Ballot

President-Elect:: (Choose or write-in one nominee)

- Gail Peavey, MS
- _____

Secretary: (Choose or write-in one nominee)

- Marilyn Sharpe
- _____

At-Large Members: (Choose or write-in up to three nominees)

- Maud Greenhoe
- Brianna Routh
- _____

- Karen Ihnen
- _____
- _____

Co-Chairs for Student Section: (Choose or write-in up to two nominees)

- Tammi Pollingo
- _____

- Susie Wolter
- _____

DIRECTIONS

Please print this page, then return your completed ballot to MCFR via fax (651-407-1754) or US mail to: Minnesota Council on Family Relations, 2738 Evergreen Circle, St. Paul MN 55110.

Ballots are due by November 15, 2013 Thank you.



A note from the editor

The children are well settled back at school, frost will soon be on the pumpkins, and Halloween is approaching. It is fall in Minnesota and time for the annual MCFR elections. Included in this issue of Family Forum are a ballot and candidate bios. Please vote. My thanks to Betty Cooke, Ada Alden and all the others who did the work of compiling this impressive slate of candidates, to the candidates themselves, and to all other contributors to this issue. I encourage each of you to consider contributing to Family Forum – by preparing a book review or a research article/brief or by submitting an item for “Members’ Corner” (our version of letters to the editor). If you have any suggestions for improving the newsletter, please let me know.

Ron Pitzer, *Family Forum* Editor
(612) 331-1970; pitzer@q.com

December 6 - Promoting Civility ...

Ted Bowman, Planning Committee Member

Promoting Civility ... Within Families Between Families and Care Providers In Work Teams In Community Meetings and Public Debates

**Friday, December 6, 2013
Como Park Visitor Center, St Paul. MN**

If you ever sought a conference that would have immediate impact for you, your family, your work-team, for interactions with those you professionally serve, and for interactions in your neighborhood and beyond, consider registering for Promoting Civility... December 6. You may think that is hyperbole or spin. It is not. The 2013 Fall conference of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations addresses a topic that is timely, practical and needed. Wide-ranging sessions led by a rich array of speakers and practitioners will be offered.



Here are the specifics: Promoting Civility... A day to explore a variety of perspectives and practical tools for promoting, practicing and facilitating civil, constructive interactions. Each session will be designed to provide useful perspectives and tools that can be used immediately at this conference, at home, plus the other venues of your lives.

When you explore the brochure for the conference, you will discover sessions ranging from restorative justice to respectful team interactions to collaborative divorce principles and practices. The planning team has been impressed with the speakers chosen and their commitments to promoting civility.

Often conferences highlight a featured person as keynoter to "grab" for registrants attention. In this case, the planning committee went for speakers, both at plenary

and breakout sessions, who brought perspectives and practical tools to use immediately. Here are some specifics:

**Opening Plenary Session
Embracing Conflict with Civility:
Learning the Power and Skills of
Compassionate Speech** - Judith H. Johnson, Kemi S. Rampi, and Joshua Rampi, The Collaborative Law Institute of Minnesota
These presenters will:

- Review current thought and research on the neuroscience of conflict
- Review current thought and research on the stages of change and their relevance as useful knowledge in responding to conflict
- Discuss methods and skills in "reframing" perspectives in conflict and use of "metaphors" in demonstrating understanding of conflicts

- Discuss how to use knowledge of group dynamics in intentional ways when responding to conflict
- Address non-violent communication and offer current models and skills available to develop compassionate speech as a habit of everyday life
- Promote understanding of how human beings experience grief and loss not only from loss of relationships, but also from perceived falsehood from individuals and systemic falsehood from institutions
- Emphasize the importance of learning respect and honor for the opinions, perspectives and viewpoints of others, specifically those populations with whom we work who may be experiencing conflict
- Suggest ways to learn to embrace differences with integrity and authenticity and the possibilities of tolerance where acceptance may not be possible.

Continued on page 8

Promoting Civility ... (continued from page 7)

Closing Plenary Session

Family Communication:

Savvy, Positive Approaches in an Age of Incivility - Carol J.

Bruess, PhD, Professor in the Communication and Journalism Department and Director of Family Studies at the University of St. Thomas

Healthy communication is essential for healthy, resilient and satisfied families. Yet in an age of increasing incivility and interdependent communication technologies, do our approaches and responses need to change? What do savvy parents do when it feels like our teens love and learn more from Facebook and Twitter than they do us? How do practitioners work positively and smartly with families in which emerging technologies are often the same media tools that incite, support and/or provide increasingly uncivil language and interactional strategies? Because smart, savvy and positive family communication is more essential than ever, this talk will be saturated with a summary of the best and most contemporary knowledge about family communication in a digitally-dominant and increasingly uncivil world.



Here are the breakout session topics and speakers:

- *E-merging Issues for Digital Age Families: Thriving (not just surviving)* (Carol J. Bruess, University of St. Thomas)
- *Overview of Restorative Justice Practices* (Mike Stewart, Restorative Justice Community Action)
- *Respectful Conversations to Build Empathy* (Jerad Morey and Rev. Tom Duke, Minnesota Council of Churches)
- *Civil Discourse in the Context of Divorce* (Judith H. Johnson, Kemi S. Rampi and Joshua Rampi,

Collaborative Law Institute of Minnesota)

- *Skills That Foster Civility in the Workplace* (Karmit Bulman and Mariah Levison, Conflict Resolution Center)
- *Being The Change That We Seek* (Donald Gault and Darlene Simmons, St Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health)
- *Group Leadership ... When Members Don't See Eye to Eye* (Ted Bowman, University of Minnesota and University of St Thomas)
- *Helping Families Make Major Medical Decisions* (Dr. Victor Sandler and Chris Dooley-Harrington, Fairview Home Care and Hospice)

Stop what you are doing. Go to the MCFR web site and register for this conference. Do it now. This is a conference registrants will be talking about and drawing on for weeks, months and years.

Treasurer's Corner

Sharon Powell, MCFR Treasurer

Comparing finances between 2012 and 2013, MCFR's retained earnings (the amount of income we began the year with) for 2012 were \$11,426.51 and, for the year 2013, retained earnings were \$9853.94. This means that MCFR began 2013 with \$1572.57 less than the organization began 2012.

Our net income (the amount of money we gained or lost during the year) was \$-4190.19 through August 2012 and \$-1333.92 through August 2013.

As of August 31 we currently had about \$1300 more dollars in the bank than we did this time last year. However, both years we had greater expenses than earnings. MCFR has been showing negative income for a number of years and it isn't a financially sustainable model. The MCFR Board will be discussing finances at our Strategic Planning Meeting in November.

MCFR Student/New Professional Poster Session Call for Proposals

Practice presenting your work in a supportive environment...

The Student/ New Professional Section invites you to participate in a student/new professional poster session at the upcoming MCFR Conference: Promoting Civility....within families, between families and care providers, in work teams, in community meetings and public debates. For more information visit www.mcfr.net

Friday – December 6, 2013
Como Park Visitor Center, Rainforest Auditorium
1225 Estabrook Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55103

All proposals must be submitted by October 25, 2013.

Posters may cover research, practice, or pedagogy pertaining to families or those working with families. Posters should be no larger than 4x4 and will be posted on a flat display board or wall with tape provided by the conference site.

To submit a proposal, send an e-mail to mary.maher@comcast.net with the following information:

- Name
- E-mail
- School
- Year in school
- Degree sought
- Title of poster presentation
- Attached copy of presentation abstract (500 words or less. See additional information below.)

You will receive a response to your proposal by November 2, 2013. Student rates and conference scholarships are available to MCFR student members. More information is available at mcfr.net



Abstract

An abstract is a brief summary of a research project, which may include: a thesis, review of literature, or any in-depth analysis of a particular subject or discipline, and is often used to help the reader quickly ascertain the paper's purpose.

An academic abstract typically outlines four elements germane to the completed work:

- The research focus (i.e. statement of the problem(s)/research issue(s) addressed);
- The research methods used (experimental research, case studies, questionnaires, review of literature, etc.);
- The results/findings of the research; and
- The main conclusions, recommendations, and/or implications.

Perspectives from Practice

Beth Kleiter

As American As Apple Pie....



Making an apple pie involves multiple choices and despite the best of efforts there is often mixed results. Googling best apple pie recipes yields even more options but no guarantee of success. And

none of the links will help you if you don't have the ingredients, time, and/or equipment.

As an Employment Counselor for families who receive cash assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) helping clients achieve self-sufficiency is a frustration-packed goal full of hurdles at every turn. I work with individual clients toward the goal of employment. My first step is to recognize that each client is a family

member and that their family's needs affect their employability. I can ask all the right questions regarding their work interests, abilities, and goals but the questions regarding the heart and health of their family are crucial.

On any given day at our office we get a flood of phone calls about housing, mental health crises,

My first step is to recognize that each client is a family member and that their family's needs affect their employability.

needing diapers for children, unexpected hospitalization, family violence, and so much more. These concerns cannot be swept under the rug----especially when the family is without broom or carpet. The worst frustration comes when a family's hopes are high after a job is found only to land in the depths of despair when it is lost for lack of child care or transportation.

The individuals I work with need services for job success like resume

writing, interview practice, school or training options but they also need services for their family and health issues. They are working so hard to survive and would love the opportunity to bring in a check for working at a job that pays a livable wage. They want the jobs in order to move off assistance from the

government; they want the American Dream.

My job, like making an old-fashioned all-American apple pie, involves multiple choices and despite the best of efforts there is often mixed results. Googling how to move families from poverty yields even more options without guarantees.

Mainly though, you have to have the ingredients, the time, and the equipment.



Congratulations to Alisha Hardman!

NCFR is honoring Alisha Hardman with the Student/New Professional (S/NP) President-for-a-Day award at its conference in San Antonio. Alisha is a current Board member and former S/NP chair at MCFR. She has promoted both organizations tirelessly by writing articles, serving in conference planning positions and speaking to undergraduates at various universities about membership and family professions. This award provides her with a travel stipend and an opportunity to

shadow the current NCFR President during one day of the conference.

Alisha is currently a PhD student at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction Family, Youth and Community program track. She has a graduate research assistantship with Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development Applied Research and Evaluation Unit. Congratulations Alisha!

NCFR News - Fall 2013

Rose Allen, NCFR Affiliate Council Board President-Elect and NCFR Board of Directors

November is coming and with it the NCFR Conference – held in San Antonio, Texas November 6-9. The theme is The Well Being of Children and Youth in Families and Communities. The conference also marks the 75th anniversary of the National Council on Family Relations. For full details go to <http://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-2013>

One of the events at the conference is the Affiliate Leadership Workshop. One of the topics is the history of affiliates – presented by Mary Jo Czaplewski. We also will be presenting the ACB Meritorious Service Award to our own Betty Cooke. Congratulations Betty!

Alisha Hardman has been selected as President for a Day - she will get to spend the day with the NCFR Board president and learn about the behind-the-scenes work of the organization.

The conference also marks my transition from Affiliate Council Board President Elect to President. I want to thank my predecessor and friend Minnell Tralle, the outgoing ACB president for paving the way for my term. I am looking forward to putting what I learn through our Minnesota affiliate - MCFR to work in this position.

NCFR Meritorious Service Award to Betty Cooke

Mary Maher and Beth Gausman

MCFR member and past president Betty Cooke will receive the Affiliate Meritorious Service award at the NCFR Conference in San Antonio this November. The award will be presented at the Affiliate breakfast as part of the NCFR fall conference agenda.

Dr. Cooke is being recognized for her commitment to NCFR and the Minnesota Council on Family Relations and more specifically her contributions to the CFLE program, support and mentorship of students and the development of the "Ethical Thinking and Practice" publication and training.

Upon hearing of the award Dr. Cooke responded: "My connections with NCFR and our MN affiliate have been some of my favorite and probably most meaningful professional work, so I am especially honored to be recognized for doing what I love in teamwork with other great members and leaders."

MCFR extends congratulations and appreciation to Betty Cooke on this well-deserved award.



Promoting Civility ...

Within Families

Between Families and Care Providers

In Work Teams

In Community Meetings

and Public Debates

Friday, December 6, 2013

Como Park Visitor Center, St Paul. MN

Communication Note

San Ha, MCFR Communications Chair

The MCFR website is due for a make-over in the near future. The Communications Committee would very much appreciate it if anyone could share stories or suggestions about the website to improve it.

This far-reaching, highly ambitious book compiles a vast amount of new information and research on fatherhood worldwide.

I have observed that American dads were changing for quite some time now. About 30 years ago, I started to notice that American dads were holding their children in restaurants, feeding infants so mom could relax and eat, taking children to change diapers, and walking kids to and from school. This greater public involvement with their kids has just intensified over the years. And I vividly remember a Korean couple who lived next door to us about 30 years ago. When his wife went into labor, he accompanied her to the hospital and stayed with her throughout the hours of labor and birth [something Korean men rarely ever did at the time]. When he told us about it later that week, when they had returned home from the hospital, he was in utter awe of his wife and child and was deeply impressed and appreciative of her carrying the child and going through labor. I am sure that their marriage and future life together were greatly enhanced and strengthened by this birthing experience. And he is a much more involved and hands-on dad than he might otherwise have been.

OK. Forget about everything you know, or think you know, about fatherhood and prepare to have a lot of your assumptions up-ended. This

far-reaching, highly ambitious book compiles a vast amount of new information and research on fatherhood worldwide. It brings together what we currently know and don't know about fatherhood and what we need to know. The book covers the latest research on fathering in cultures spanning over 50% of the world's population. Regional experts look at fourteen countries or regions and discuss cultural/historical influences, variation between and within cultures and social and economic conditions

It brings together what we currently know and don't know about fatherhood and what we need to know.

and public policies impacting fatherhood. The editors looked at hundreds of studies of fathering published in languages other than English. Main chapters are organized by region and include Asia/Middle East, the Americas, Europe and Australia.

Cultures were selected for inclusion based upon the availability of research, geographical balance and the significance for a global understanding of fathering and fatherhood. Chapters all have the

same structural outline, making it easier for readers to compare fatherhood across cultures: opening case study or personal story; cultural and historical background and influences on fathers; a review of the research on fathering; sub-cultural variations in fathering; social and economic conditions affecting fathers; public policies and laws [even proposed laws in some cases] relevant to fathering; comparisons with fathers in other societies; and conclusions. An opening chapter looks at theoretical and methodological issues of international research on fatherhood and a concluding chapter sums up main points, chief trends, and the need for specific kinds of future research.

The intended audience for this brilliant new book includes graduate and advanced undergraduate students in family social science, child development, sociology and comparative sociology, international studies, anthropology, family studies, cross-cultural studies, education, psychology, gender and women's studies and ethnic studies, as well as public policymakers, researchers, practitioners, or educators working in the areas of fatherhood and father

Continued on page 13

involvement. The book is loaded with figures, photos, tables and charts which help to illustrate points.

The editors point out that since 1970, when fatherhood research focused on father absence, there have been major strides in this area of research. Now there is active research on resident married fathers, divorced fathers, stepfathers, adoptive fathers, teen fathers, incarcerated dads, fathers and substance misuse, low-income fathers, non-white fathers, gay fathers, disabled fathers, those with atypically developing children, cohabiting fathers, immigrant fathers, and social fathers [men who function as a father to children]. There is less U.S.-centricism in fatherhood research. Remarkably, about 20% of American fathers with resident children under the age of 18 are now foreign-born [an amazing statistic not yet widely appreciated in the States].

This book is crucially important in that it brings together current cutting-edge research on fathering and fatherhood from diverse world societies under a strong cross-cultural perspective. A concluding chapter makes recommendations on avenues for future research and predicts that within just 25 short years the nature of fatherhood and fatherhood research will have changed drastically. Some of the influences on fatherhood include chronic recession, unstable work environments, immigrant fathers who live separated from their families, traditional and changing gender roles, westernization, modernization, population mobility,

technology and information technology, global markets, women's education and subsequent entrance into the labor market, divorce, illegitimacy, immigration, colonization, slavery, indentured servitude, whether the culture is patrilineal or matrilineal in organization, migration, poverty, warfare, alcoholism, low birth rates, social taboos on showing affection to children, the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the impact of extended families and communities on families and fathers, physical and/or

The role of fatherhood is in rapid flux worldwide for a variety of reasons.

emotional desertion by fathers and more. In the Scandinavian countries, unlike most areas of the world, there are very conscious national social policies designed to support fathers and enhance the role of fatherhood [e.g. paternity leave, financial support for father involvement with their young infants, etc.]. In Australia, forced removal of children from Indigenous families and fathers continues to have a long-term and devastating impact. In Russia, fathers tend to be extremely marginalized and suffer from a long historical/cultural/literary/folklore tradition of negative talk and stereotypes. Fathers in Russia, where male alcoholism is a huge issue, are highly marginalized relative to mothers, who are often deified.

Among the countries where fatherhood is examined are China,

Japan, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Arab world, Central and East Africa [very small-scale, sometimes pastoral, societies], Southern Africa, Caribbean communities, Brazil, the United States, Russia, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Where subcultural variations exist [as in Japanese-Brazilian and Korean residents of Japan], these are also explored. Generally speaking, fathers seem to fall into three models: father as worker, father as provider and/or father as guardian.

The role of fatherhood is in rapid flux worldwide for a variety of reasons. Shwalb, Shwalb and Lamb conclude that cultural and historical backgrounds and changes continue to have a major influence on fathers and fatherhood. There are varying levels of enthusiasm for increased father-involvement and varying breadth and quality of research on fathers worldwide. While explicit social policies designed to support and enhance fathering exist in some cultures, they are non-existent in others. There is a great deal of sub-cultural variation in fathering. There are many current economic conditions affecting fatherhood.

The editors conclude with a few recommendations for future research on fathering. In terms of sampling, we need wider geographical coverage and more targeted comparisons. In terms of research design, we need more explanatory research with a primary focus on fathers, fatherhood and cultures. In terms of

Continued on page 14

measurement, we need to move toward objective, standardized measurement approaches using multi-method, multi-disciplinary approaches to studying fathers across cultures. We should strive to build a cohesive body of multi-disciplinary research on fathers. These editors conclude by saying, "Globalization may lead many fathers to spend more time with their children in many societies, but globalization will not eliminate the importance of history,

tradition, geography, culture or individuality. We predict that 25 years from now there will be a very different story to tell about fathers in cultural context, and we expect that this story will be far more complex (and not more unified) than the story told in this volume. This prospect presents a growing and exciting challenge for researchers and for fathers." [p. 399]

I believe that you cannot function effectively in family life education,

teaching, learning or practice with the family field without reading this impressive and vital new book. I recommend it highly. I learned a great deal from reading it and am confident you will too. The book reinforced some of what I already knew about fatherhood but then added substantially to that knowledge base and refined it. This is a must-read for anyone in the field. Run, don't walk, to acquire it and make it your own.

Edited by David W. Shwalb, Barbara J. Shwalb, Michael E. Lamb; Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, New York and London; 2013; ISBN hbk 978-1-84872-947 approx. \$119.88 or ISBN pbk 978-1-84872-948-3 approx. \$48.82 or ISBN ebk 978-0-203-81600-4; 419 pages

Change in MCFR Administrative Directors

Mary Maher, MCFR President

MCFR is facing its biggest change in years. Last June the MCFR Board received a letter of resignation from Linda Vukelich effective at the end of 2013. Linda served MCFR with dedication, creativity, enthusiasm and professionalism for 15 years. As a result, the Executive Committee identified two needs:

- 1) Someone to step into the position in time to work with Linda on the busy fall calendar of activities and publications
- 2) A Board retreat to review the ways MCFR is equipped to continue to fulfill its mission and what additional changes the organization may need to pursue.

The latter goal will be addressed at a Board Retreat on 11/15. The first goal required the Executive Committee to review and interview a number of candidates. The full board approved the committee's recommendation of contracting with Tammy Dunrud for administrative and financial services through March of 2014. Strategic planning may alter the nature of the contracted services so the agreement will be reviewed this winter. Tammy's unique connections to family education and nonprofit management will serve MCFR well.

Many of you may know Tammy for her Family and Community Education work in the Forest Lake district as well as her past Board membership at MCFR. Since 2007 Tammy has worked as an independent consultant and grantwriter for nonprofit organizations. She received a mini-MBA in Non-Profit Management from the University of St. Thomas in 2011.

She has collaborated with Linda Vukelich on a variety of MCFR tasks including some of our recent conferences. Tammy and Linda have enjoyed working together on many nonprofit management and grant-writing projects. We are fortunate to have their expertise available to us to help smooth the transition.

Need I mention that this year's conference will provide a wonderful opportunity to say thank you and good bye to Linda and to welcome Tammy as MCFR Administrative Director? See you there!

MCFR History: *Ghosts Among Us*

Susan Meyers, MCFR Historian

Have you seen someone that you have known for years but find that person was not who you thought? It is an amusing experience at all ages. I recently saw a person reclined in a car that was the spitting image of someone I have known for years, down to the quirky smile. I acknowledged the person non-verbally, but had no further contact. I went to the store and returned shortly afterward to see the car had left. Sometime later I checked it out with this person who confirmed that I was mistaken. I came to my conclusion because the car was not one frequented by this person.

This has happened to me at professional meetings – local or national. Our aging eyes can sometimes recognize a person after many years even though there are size changes, hair changes or other aspects. I was amazed to know that I could recognize my classmates after 50 years, even though I had not been in that area for 48 years. Inside the wrinkles and changes, the 17-18 year old was as clear as day.

Typically I would walk up and introduce myself and ask if they were that person. The response was often negative. At other times, we visited and found that there was a common link through a mutual friend. I had mixed up that person with a friend of mine because both were together in most of my contacts.

It appeared to me that something had jarred a memory and I really wanted to reflect on that memory and the person. Most often it was someone with whom I shared a special moment – an exciting keynote presentation or a new research study that confirmed my previous conclusions on the topic.

Sometimes those “ghost” memories remind me of times that I enjoyed and hoped to keep throughout the years.

May we all have amazing memories that reflect on who we were and who we now are.



**MCFR MEMBERS ARE OUR MOST
VALUABLE ASSET - PLEASE
VOLUNTEER
DONATE
PARTICIPATE
JOIN OR RENEW
TODAY**



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