

## ANNUAL ELECTIONS ISSUE

### MCFR CANDIDATE BIOS AND BALLOT ENCLOSED

For the first time in our history, MCFR ballots will not be mailed. Instead, MCFR members are asked to print the enclosed ballot and fax in your votes. MCFR counts on members to participate in this process.

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE



#### ROSE ALLEN

I have been a member of MCFR for over 20 years. During this time, I have served on the board as an at large member, member of the policy committee, treasurer and currently am the Communication Chair. I work for the University of Minnesota Extension as a Regional Extension Educator with a focus on Family Relations. I have a MEd. in Adult Education. I have taken numerous courses and attended many conferences

Rose Allen

on issues relating to the family and parenting.

I believe MCFR is an important organization for family professionals in Minnesota. We provide an important source of staff development through our conferences. I see us also providing a place for family professionals to connect and learn from each other. I am honored to be running for president elect of MCFR.

#### BIO: ROSE ALLEN

Rose Allen is a Regional Extension Educator, Family Relations and Professor with the University of Minnesota Extension Service. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Human Ecology with a focus in general home economics and textile design (1972 – Design, and 1982 –General Home Economics and Journalism, from the University of Minnesota). Her Master's Degree is in Adult Education (1988 from the University of Minnesota).

Rose is a contributing author of numerous curriculums for parents and professionals who work with parents including:

- Positive Parenting-Alternatives to the Physical Punishment of Children
- Positive Parenting II for parents of elementary age children
- Positive Parenting of Teens
- Dads Make a Difference

- Parents Forever-the Effect of Divorce on Children
- Parents Forever-online training for professionals
- Positive Discipline: A Guide For Parents (with Children's Hospitals and Clinics)
- We Agree: Creating a Parenting Plan
- Shoulder to Shoulder: Raising Teens Together

Rose is also the parent of two children, 16 and 18 years old who have taught her more than she could ever imagine about parenting. She and her husband live in St. Paul, MN.

#### TREASURER CANDIDATE

#### KRISTIN SCHNEIDER

Kristin Schneider is a native Minnesotan. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota . She is now pursuing her Doctorate. Kristin's research interests include family policy, housing insecurity, domestic violence, sexual assault, romantic relationships, and non-traditional families. Kristin has been part of the MCFR board for three years.



Kristin Schneider

She served as a student representative for the first two and has helped create the new student section and served as its co-chair in the last year. Kristin has also co-chaired two conferences, the spring 2006 conference and the upcoming fall 2007 conference. She enjoyed her time on the board immensely and is hoping to continue her involvement. By acting as the treasurer, she is hoping to gain valuable experience in working with non-profit finances and increase her understanding of the workings of MCFR.

*Continued on page 4*

MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS

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STUDENT SECTION CHAIR

Kristin Schneider ..... kschneid@umn.edu

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Joanne Kelley ..... 651-653-4529

Jackie Mosqueda, CFLE ..763-493-8931

Mike Walcheski ..... 651-603-6184

Minnesota Council on Family Relations

2738 Evergreen Circle, St. Paul, MN 55110

PHONE: 651-407-0950 FAX: 651-407-1754 WWW.MCFR.NET

# President's Letter

Minnell Tralle  
MCFR 2007 President

Greetings Members:

The last time I wrote for the Forum, I was in the midst of planting seeds for my gardens. Now I am waiting for that first biting frost that puts my gardens to bed for the fall. It seems like the activities in my life and work revolve around those seasons as does the work of many organizations that we are involved in. While the pace in my garden slows down considerably in the fall, the pace in many

## MCFR Conferences and events offer

organizations, including MCFR, steps up. Conference planning is at full speed, new board members and officers are being recruited, and our committees are busy with their planning.

As you can see in this issue, our conference committee chaired by Kristin Schneider has an excellent fall conference planned. I also hope you make a point to attend the annual meeting at the beginning of the conference to hear about MCFR's accomplishments and join the Board in recognizing award winners. For the second year, we will have a silent auction that will support the Student Scholarship Fund. If you have items to donate, please contact me at [trall1001@umn.edu](mailto:trall1001@umn.edu). Be sure to stop by and bid on a few items – I brought home a few too many “winning bids” last year!

The MCFR Student Section is planning their second event for students in October. Their goal is to join with students from many institutions around the state. We are lucky to have such actively involved students on our Board and hope they are learning as much from us as we are from them. Contact Kristin Schneider if you have questions.

Our Spring conference will have the unique focus of children, families and nature. Inspired by the book “No Child Left in the Woods” by Richard Louv, the

conference committee is collaborating with the University of MN Landscape Arboretum and the Children's Nature Network to offer an exciting conference at a beautiful venue. I'll be there and I hope you will too.

In my last *President's Letter* of my term, rather than recap the past year, I'd like to focus on my hopes for the future of MCFR. I'd like to see MCFR continue to grow in membership and reach out to those who have not typically joined this organization. This organization has members from many different professions, but all with the same goal of strengthening families. We have the potential to

## knowledge and networking

grow beyond where we currently are. I would also like to see a membership that readily “steps up to the plate” to be involved. I would guess I speak for others on the Board that there are a lot of rewards to being involved in this great organization. How can we get YOU more involved? One way may be on our committees and to that end, I hope that we can have more committees that are able to recruit members beyond the board. We sometimes spread people a little too thin and I think that we can broaden the base to get more involvement and more accomplished. I hope that you feel that this is YOUR MCFR and feel welcome to become more involved.

My hopes for the future are not a result of having negative experiences. In fact it is quite the opposite. My hopes are that you too can find a place in MCFR.

## STUDENT SECTION OFFERS MUCH

Kristin Schneider, Student Section Chair

The student section is still working hard to reach out to students and student supporters throughout Minnesota. We are excited to work with those interested to continue to build the section and create new goals as we grow.

### *Student Section:*

✓ *October 19 Student Event planned*

✓ *Blog*

✓ *Student section listserv*

maps/PeikH/). We will provide snack, beverages, and great conversation; you just have to bring yourself (and your family is welcome too). We would love to see you there.

Our blog has been active and we are posting new topics every month. You can access it at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/cline048/mcfr/> and please come and introduce yourself in the virtual world. We are hoping to use the blog to network, discuss ideas, and learn more about each other. We will add new topics monthly, so check in often.

We are also in the midst of creating a listserv for student section members. If you are interested in being part of this listserv, please contact Heather at [cline048@umn.edu](mailto:cline048@umn.edu). The listserv will be another forum for members to exchange thoughts, news, events, and job openings. This listserv will function similarly to the MCFR listserv, but will be geared specifically toward the student section members.

If you have any questions about the student section or would like more information, you can contact me at [kschneid@umn.edu](mailto:kschneid@umn.edu).

The great news is that you didn't miss our fall event. It's coming up on October 19, 2007 from 4-6 PM at Peik Hall on the University of Minnesota East Bank Minneapolis campus (for a map, please follow this link <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/>

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter, as autumn leaves begin to fall. My thanks to all of the contributors. Please remember to vote by faxing or mailing in your a ballot.

Again, 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). Thank you.

Ron Pitzer

*Family Forum* managing editor  
(612) 331-1970; [rpitzer@umn.edu](mailto:rpitzer@umn.edu)



## MCFR ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

### Children's Right to a Healthy Social Environment: How to Protect Them from Social Toxicity

#### KEYNOTE BY JAMES GARBARINO, PHD

Dr. James Garbarino is the Maude C. Clarke Chair in Humanistic Psychology and Director of the Center for the Human Rights of Children at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. He is a best-selling author, nationally regarded speaker and expert. His presentations and appearances often sell out, so register early !

**Friday, November 30, 2007**

**Continuing Education and Conference Center**

(Formerly Earle Brown Center) U of M St. Paul Campus, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN

#### REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.MCFR.NET](http://WWW.MCFR.NET)

MCFR members save on \$20 registration. Register before November 15 and save an additional \$5. A limited number of student scholarships are available to full-time students who call the office at 651-407-0950. MCFR offers these scholarships by hosting a silent auction at the conference. Donations are appreciated and so are your bids!

*We are busy putting the finishing touches on the fall conference. We are so excited to host Dr. Garbarino and so many other wonderful presenters. The mission of this conference is to learn about the rights of children and to gain tools for helping to protect these rights. This topic is relevant for all professionals who work with families. It is just around the corner on November 30, but you can register now. Please go to the MCFR website for registration information. I look forward to seeing you there!*

Kristin Schneider  
Conference Committee Chair

## AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES



Pa Nhia Yang

### PA NHIA YANG

Pa Nhia was born in Laos and immigrated with her family to the U.S. in 1985. Since then she has lived in Sheboygan, WI. She earned her bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her masters in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She is now pursuing her Ph.D. in the same department at the U of M. Her current research interests

are immigrant education, intergenerational family dynamics, immigrant family strengths, parent-adolescent relationships, financial management within immigrant families, and ethnic identity. Pa Nhia has been part of MCFR for two years serving as the student representative. Despite her shyness, she has enjoyed her experience with MCFR. She hopes that by serving as an at large member and having a Hmong cultural background, she can contribute diversity to include immigrant, refugee, and minority families.

### CAROLYN CARR LATADY

Carolyn Carr Latady has been a member of MCFR since 2006. She lives near Stacy, Minnesota with her husband and their two dogs and two cats. She has a BA in Social Work and a Master's degree in Intercultural Management. She currently works as a Family Support Advocate with the Forest Lake Area School District. With over 30 years professional and community experience working on issues related to equity and cultural diversity, Carolyn looks forward to sharing her expertise as an At-Large Board Member.



Carolyn Carr Latady

### HEATHER DUBBELDEE

I am a student at the University of Minnesota, working on my MA and PhD from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, with a focus on Family Education. I will also receive my Minnesota Parent and Family Education License next summer (2008).

Currently, my academic and professional interests are encouraging parent development and parental awareness

through educational experiences for parents, and improving training and professional development for parent and family educators.

Since the beginning of my graduate career, I have held two graduate assistantships. One of them is assisting Dr. Ruth Thomas, current chair of Curriculum and Instruction and long time family professional, with a research project related to teaching and learning strategies. The other is working with the faculty of Family

Education on their specific projects. Last year I helped coordinate the Family Education/Asian Symposium hosted by Dr. Jerry McClelland. I also took on most of the responsibilities in creating and disseminating the annual Family Education Chronicle sent to alumni, donors, and other persons with a connection to our program. During this 2007-2008 academic year, among other things, I look forward to working with Betty Cooke to transpose one of our excellent parent education licensure courses into an online version.



Heather Dubbeldee

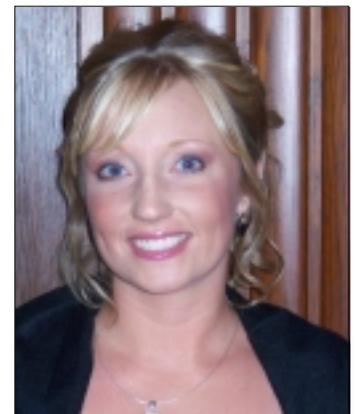
*Continued on page 5*

### SARA LASSIG

Sara Lassig was born and raised in Stewartville, Minnesota. She received her BS in psychology with a gerontology minor from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. She completed her MA in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota, where she is currently a doctoral candidate in Family Social Science, expecting to graduate in 2008.

She is concurrently completing her Master's in Social Work at the University of Minnesota. Her direct practice and research interests are in the areas of gerontology, death and dying, grief and loss, family caregiving, and health and mental health care for veterans. She is interested in the intersection between families, health and mental healthcare, and best practice models for effectively serving patients and their families in both medical and community based settings.

Sara has served on the MCFR board for two years as a Student Representative, and also served as Nominations Committee Chair and as a conference Chair.



Sara Lassig

# WHAT DO FATHERS NEED?

Michael Jerpbak, Ph. D., CFLE  
Associate Professor of Youth and Family Studies  
Crossroads College, Rochester MN

Some mothers are jealous. They notice more and more fathers involved in their children's lives, yet they can't understand "Why isn't the father of my children more involved?" Furthermore, they ask, often frustrated, "What can I do to get him more involved?"

Current research on father involvement may be able to help. The big question we need to ask is not, "What will make him get involved?" I don't think we want him involved if he doesn't want to and is feeling coerced. More appropriately, we should ask, "What does he need so he feels more like he wants to be involved?" The research shows that the American father is in need of five things: (a) experience, (b) support, (c) sensitivity to work demands, (d) opportunity to develop self-understanding, and (e) role models.

- **Experience** - Men typically have fewer opportunities to acquire and practice skills that are central to caregiving activities during socialization. Many simply feel awkward in this role. Research shows that caretaking experience increases effectiveness and enjoyment of the experience of parenting. Mothers must be careful. In any learning venture, patience is required. If a father feels judged or feels like he is being policed as he gains experience, he may get discouraged and give up.
- **Support** – Research shows that father's involvement is dependent on the amount of encouragement and support they receive. A man's identity as a father is often powerfully influenced by beliefs that are tied to the way men's current and previous romantic partners have responded to them. A father's relationships with his children are often contingent on the mother's attitudes toward, expectations of, and

support for fathers. Simply stated, fathers' level of participation is, in many instances, influenced by the extent to which the mother permits and encourages participation.

- **Sensitivity to Word Demands** – Even though mothers work more and more, research still shows that work-demands play a significant role in determining how involved fathers are. This is noted as a primary reason why father participation is limited in parent education programming and school involvement. The research suggests that work and home environments that create greater time flexibility for fathers enhance a father's involvement with his family.
- **Understanding Self** – Fathers are no different than mothers in the sense that the way they learned to relate in their relationships with their parents significantly influences the way they relate to their children. Fathers today need the opportunity to talk about how they were raised so they can make sense of it and make conscious decisions to be how they want to be as fathers as opposed to how they were raised to be. Without responsive relationships that support fathers in this process of personal growth, they end up simply living as they were taught.
- **Role Models** - Fathers identify the need for positive role models as crucial for their positive development as parents. Research shows that fathers today are generally uncertain about their roles. Helping fathers find relationships with other men who are engaged with their families is one of the best ways to help fathers develop in their confidence and involvement. This also provides a safe place for men to be able to discuss how they were raised and gain some of the self-understanding discussed earlier.

## HEATHER DUBBELDEE *Continued from page 4*

As I proceed through graduate school, I am thankful for the opportunity to take part in professional organizations such as MCFR. In addition to attending conferences, I have enjoyed working with Kristin Schneider, from Family Social Science at the U of M, as co-coordinator of the Student Section of MCFR. We both share the desire to collaborate with our peers and network with the field's professionals, not to mention our shared enjoyment in taking on leadership opportunities. While attending Jean Illsley Clarke's workshop on leadership and overindulgence this past July, I began to see my capabilities as a leader match my desire, which has made me hungry for more professional development opportunities.

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## MINNESOTA FATHERHOOD SUMMIT:

### REGISTER NOW!

RE-INVIGORATE! RE-ENERGIZE! RE-CONNECT TO MINNESOTA'S  
LEADERS IN FATHERHOOD AND FAMILY SERVICES!

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 4, 2008!**

### MINNESOTA FATHERHOOD SUMMIT

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008, 12:00 NOON - 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008, 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**ST. CLOUD CIVIC CENTER, ST. CLOUD, MN**

DETAILS: [WWW.MNFATHS.ORG/SUMMIT.HTML](http://WWW.MNFATHS.ORG/SUMMIT.HTML)

## Nearly 200 CFLE Applications Received for Final Portfolio Review!

Dawn Cassidy, M.Ed., CFLE, NCFR Certification Director

When developing the 2007 budget for the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) department, I knew we would see an increase in the number of applications received for the two final portfolio review sessions. While we were committed to the replacement of the portfolio review process with a nationally standardized exam, we knew there were a lot of people who did not want to take a test in order to become a CFLE.

We saw a nice increase in the number of applications received at the spring review – 54 as opposed to the usual 25 to 40. But realizing that it is human nature to procrastinate, I knew we would see a larger increase at the final fall review. I budgeted for 75 applications. We received nearly 200!

We are excited to have received so many applications. But we are equally excited by the fact that we have received a great deal of interest in the CFLE exam. Even before the final submission deadline of September 4 had passed, I began to receive calls and emails from people wanting to know when the exam would be offered and seeking advice on how they could best prepare. As I write this column the first offering of the exam is scheduled for November 7 at the NCFR conference and will also be available at a number of specified sites throughout the United States and Canada from November 1 to November 15. I don't know yet how many people will register for this first offering, but I do know that there have been at least 30 people who have requested information on registering for the exam!

The **CFLE Advisory Board**, in collaboration with members of the **CFLE Item Writing Committee** (those responsible for the actual development of the CFLE exam) developed policies for the CFLE exam. Much of the CFLE program is unchanged. We will continue to recognize university and college degree programs that offer coursework covering the ten CFLE family life content areas as "NCFR-approved" programs. Graduates of NCFR-approved programs will continue to be eligible to apply for Provisional certification through the Abbreviated Application process.

We made a few changes to the work experience requirements for those seeking full certification to recognize degree levels, but overall the minimum requirements to qualify to be a Certified Family Life Educator are similar to what they were under the portfolio review process. The following table includes information on the options available for the CFLE credential.

Criteria for the Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Designation

Degree Type Certification	Provisional	Full Certification	Bachelor's Level Degree	Master's or PH.D. Level
Family Degree from an NCFR-Approved Program earned within the past two years	Complete Abbreviated Application Process	Complete Abbreviated Application process and document FLE work experience hours	Document at least 3,200 hours FLE work experience to qualify for Full certification	Document at least 1,600 hours FLE work experience to qualify for Full certification
Family Degree from an NCFR-Approved Program earned more than two years ago	Complete CFLE Exam	Complete CFLE Exam and document FLE work experience hours		
Family Degree from a non-NCFR-Approved Program				
Non-Family Degree			Document at least 4,800 hours FLE work experience to qualify for Full certification	

Any person with at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited institution can sit for the CFLE exam. If they lack sufficient work experience (see table) they can receive Provisional certification upon successful completion of the CFLE exam. They can remain at Provisional status for up to five years. They can upgrade to Full certification upon documentation of sufficient work experience.

One major change to the CFLE policies includes recognition of degree level. An applicant with an advanced degree in family will need less experience in family life education in order to qualify for Full certification than would an applicant with a bachelor's level degree. An applicant with a degree outside the family field will need more family life education work experience in order to balance the lack of formal academic preparation.

An applicant with sufficient work experience hours may take the CFLE exam and receive Full certification upon successful completion of the exam. As part of the application process for Full certification, an applicant will need to provide formal documentation of their work experience hours by completing the FLE Work Experience Summary Form.

The cost for the CFLE exam will be \$225 for NCFR members (\$325 for non-members) seeking Full certification. The cost for Provisional certification will be \$150 for NCFR members (\$250 for non-members). Provisional CFLEs will need to pay an \$85 (\$110 for non-members) Upgrade fee upon submission of work experience hours in order to receive Full certification.

The NCFR website includes information on the exam including the content outline, a list of relevant resources, and the CFLE Exam Application Form. In the near future we hope to provide an exam study guide and to begin to collaborate with NCFR members to provide continuing education opportunities for CFLE applicants wanting to prepare for the exam and for CFLEs working to earn continuing education credits for recertification.

It has been an amazingly productive year with the development of the CFLE exam and the final portfolio review sessions. The future of the CFLE program looks brighter than ever. I look forward to working with our members to increase the awareness and value of the family life education profession!

# History

## HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FAMILY FIELD

Sue Meyers

I have had the opportunity to reflect on how I was introduced to the family field as an undergraduate as well as more in-depth during graduate work. The process of learning through professional organizations like MCFR and NCFR continued to hone focus on the family. The process is slow evolving, with some early theories proving to be less adaptable to families today. Other information has continued to be significant, with more research tweaking areas of marriage, parenthood, gender roles and demographic change. So many changes are taken for granted now, but were interesting to live through. Women were not dominant in family sociology when I began. We now

continue to make sure that both men and women see the family field as critical for the future. As we grow older, we can incorporate the research and theories into the 21st Century, putting those that are not as relevant into a file to remind us from where we came. For others, we can draw our "family field tree" showing where the work of Duvall, Hill, Reiss, Aldous and others evolved into work by Boss, Doherty, Neubeck, Hey, Pitzer, Palm, Alden, Comeau, Clarke, Cooke, and so many others. Our family tree is rich with Minnesotans – and our roots are deep and strong. We have much to celebrate in the Minnesota Council on Family Relations.

### MCFR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

MCFR has established a student scholarship fund and is seeking donations. The fund will allow us to offer scholarships to our conference on November 30 and thereafter. Please watch for an announcement on the listserv and help us build this important resource! for more information, call the office at (651) 407-0950. The donation form is available at [www.mcfr.net](http://www.mcfr.net). Thank you!

### IN THIS ISSUE

MCFR ELECTIONS .....	1
PRESIDENT'S LETTER .....	2
MCFR NEWS .....	3
CANDIDATES .....	4
RESEARCH .....	5
CFLE .....	6

### PAST PRESIDENT NANCY DELIN DIED

#### AUGUST 2007

Nancy Delin, Past MCFR President, died in August. Delin was MCFR President in 1986 and provided leadership during changing political times. She applied her understanding of community and group processes to the board and gave leadership to early childhood family education in Scott and Carver counties, and then in Edina. During her leadership, board meetings were held in the western Twin Cities suburbs. She received the Ruth Hathaway Jewson Distinguished Service to Families Award in 1993. In 2001, she was named Minnesota Community Educator of the Year for communities with populations above 20,000. She was 64 and is survived by her husband, Norman, two daughters, Heather Haas and Jennie Tainter, six grandchildre four brothers.

For more in depth description, go to:<http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?I=LS000093083594X>.

Contributed by Sue Meyers

### DVD NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY MCFR MEMBERS

#### David Walsh, PhD - Promise and Peril: Parenting in the Media Age



Through an arrangement with MCFR, the recording of Dr. Walsh's keynote presentation from the December 1, 2006 MCFR Annual Conference, "The Impact of Media and Technology on Parenting: What's our Role as Educators and Family Professionals?" is available to MCFR members to purchase copied on a DVD. Dr. Walsh, Founder and President of the National Institute on Media and the Family, and

MediaWise®, offered NEW information and tools to help family professionals use media and technology wisely in their work with families. This 90-minute DVD is an excellent resource for your library.

#### Promise and Peril: Parenting in the Media Age Order Form

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

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

City, State zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

MCFR member order: \_\_\_\_\_ DVDs at \$25 per DVD. Total due=\$\_\_\_\_\_

NCFR member order: \_\_\_\_\_ DVDs at \$35 per DVD. Total due=\$\_\_\_\_\_

VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2007 MCFR BALLOT

[See candidate statements elsewhere in this newsletter.]

### President-elect

Rose Allen

**Write-in:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If possible, provide telephone number or e-mail address)

### Treasurer

Kristin Schneider

**Write-in:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If possible, provide telephone number or e-mail address)

### At-Large Board Members (Vote for four.)

Heather Dubbeldee

Sara Lassig

Carolyn Carr Latady

Pa Nhia Yang

**Write-in:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If possible, provide telephone number or e-mail address)

*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, 2007 ~Thank you.*