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## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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# RUTH AND PAUL THOMAS FAMILY EDUCATION GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP 2011-2012

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### *History of the Fellowship*

This graduate fellowship is provided by Drs. Ruth and Paul Thomas, reflecting their commitment to education and, in particular, to family education. Their gift to the University of Minnesota for fellowships for Family Education graduate students also reflects their own history of receiving scholarships and fellowships for graduate study and knowing how much that kind of assistance means to graduate students. The Drs. Thomas established this fellowship in 2004 in appreciation of their University experiences and their belief in the importance of the field of Family Education. As graduates of the

University of Minnesota three times each themselves, they recognize the significance of their University education to their professional and personal learning and development. The fellowship recognizes the contributions that many professors made to their learning over the course of their education and to their long careers in education. Dr. Ruth Thomas is currently a Professor of Family Education and Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Paul Thomas was a policy analyst for the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board and a staff member of the State of Minnesota's Higher Education Services Office for 26 years before retiring in 2000. The Drs. Thomas met as students at the University of Minnesota, where they began their higher education experience in 1961 as freshmen. Dr. Ruth Thomas received her B.S. from the University in 1965, her M. A. in 1975, and her Ph.D. in 1977. Dr. Paul Thomas received his B.S. from the University in 1965, his M. A. in 1970, and his Ed.D. in 1974.

As a Professor of Family Education, Dr. Ruth Thomas's interests are in curriculum and program planning, and the application of cognitive theory to instructional design. She directed a program of research in higher order thinking for a decade, which included development of the Reflective Dialogue Parent Education Design. In addition, history and philosophy of family education are areas of her teaching and curriculum development at the University of Minnesota during her 30-year career there.

Dr. Paul Thomas's work and interests have been in agriculture education and in higher education administration. He taught agriculture for five years at the high school, adult, and postsecondary levels and was director of a high school vocational center in Morris, Minnesota prior to his higher education work with the State of Minnesota. Since his retirement, he has operated the Thomas farm in Lakeville, Minnesota on a full time basis.

## ***2011-12 Fellowship***

One 9-month, \$10,000 graduate fellowship will be awarded for the 2011-12 academic year.

### ***Purpose***

This fellowship is intended to provide support for an outstanding, new Family Education graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts or Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in the Family Education specialization within the Family, Youth, and Community program track.

### ***Selection Criteria***

All individuals applying or planning to apply for admission to the M.A. or Ph.D. degree program with an emphasis in Family Education Fall of 2011 are eligible to apply for this fellowship. Consideration in the selection process will be given to academic achievement, leadership potential, professional goals, and experiences related to family education.

### ***Application and Notification Procedures***

The application consists of: (1) a cover letter including name, address, and phone number; (2) a typed double-spaced statement (maximum of two pages) summarizing professional goals and experiences related to family education and academic achievements that pertain to being a family educator; (3) transcripts of all higher education academic work; (4) GRE scores; and (5) one letter of recommendation addressing leadership potential. Applications for this fellowship must be submitted with the application for Graduate School Admission. For questions regarding the fellowship or the application process, contact Jessie Eastman at [cigs@umn.edu](mailto:cigs@umn.edu).

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The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator. The Family Education Program specifically invites and encourages applications from all groups underrepresented in Family Education.